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The First Snowy Stroll

Marion Village Christmas Stroll

By Sam Bishop

A thin blanket of snow fell over the SouthCoast last Sunday, but that didn't stop the Marion Village Christmas Stroll from happening.

Maybe some were dissuaded from attending, but you wouldn't be able to tell from seeing the packed Island Wharf with spectators waiting for Santa and Mrs. Claus' boat to dock. The boat appeared to struggle as it approached, needing to make a second pass. When the couple stepped off however, it was all smiles and waves.

The typical treats and goodies were up for grabs from generous local businesses. Ice cream, cookies, popcorn, hot dogs, churros, eggnog, and surely others I missed. While getting a snack, you could watch kids, and some adults, hurl snowballs at each other across the street.

Santa sat at the entrance to the Marion Music Hall, as the snow made it impossible for the horses to make an appearance. Near where he sat was the Tabor Academy Buoy Tree is planted. The colorful tree/art installation was recently put up by students Morgan Karvonen, Taylor Karvonen, and Deming Dwyer to raise money for a non-profit to beneif food pantries this winter.

Alana Nelson, Vice-Chair of the Planning Board, said she, nor anyone else, can remember a stroll where it snowed in the 31 years they've done one. It was truly a magical day - does this herald a white Christmas?

(Two Hundred Fifty-) Two Years Since the Boston Tea Party

This Week in Revolutionary War History

By Sam Bishop

This week in Revolutionary War history, let's check up on what was going on 250 years ago in and around the colonial Province of Massachusetts Bay. Last week, Colonel Henry Knox reported good progress on his trip to Fort Ticonderoga. He aims to get artillery to relinquish the siege at Boston and has already managed to send some from a pitstop in New York. The Scot John Paul Jones was commissioned by the Continental Congress to eventually serve as a privateer for the Continental Navy. Philip Schuyler is sending an additional 3,000 men to Cambridge from Albany, while at the same time the Battle of Great Bridge is fought in Virginia, a catastrophic defeat for the Brits who retreat to sea and abandon much of the south.

On the Cover: *The Marion Village Christmas Stroll down Front Street. The stroll was on Sunday, December 14. Alanna Nelson said in the 31 years the town has had the stroll, this is the first time anyone remembers it snowing! Due to the snow, Santa wasn't able to ride his horse-drawn carriage around town. Instead, he was sitting just outside the Marion Music Hall. Photo by Sam Bishop*

Deadlines for the
December 25 & January 1 Editions

Classified and Legal Advertisements - Monday at 2pm
Press Releases - Monday at 10am

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On December 10, 1775, the most prolific killer from the Old World finally begins to take center stage: smallpox. The men in Canada have already experienced it, and it will soon take more and more. George Washington writes to James Otis Sr. of the Massachusetts General Court (the state's legislature) to issue dire warning over refugees fleeing Boston. He says, "some of the people who came out of Boston were infected with the small pox - As this disorder should It spread may prove very disastrous & fatal to our army & the country around it." He urges taking steps to mitigate its spread, though is privately cautious of army inoculation as it could lead to many of his soldiers requiring bedrest.

On December 11, at long last, Martha Washington arrives at the camp in Cambridge from Mount Vernon to spend the winter in Washington's company. This same day, Washington sends a lengthy letter to John Hancock at the Continental Congress airing many grievances and worries. At this time, Congress, specifically Samuel Adams, are organizing the newly created Continental Navy. Washington is increasingly fearful of the spread of pox, and says, "the information I received that the enemy intended spreading the Small pox amongst us, I could not suppose them capable of. I now must give some credit to it, as it has made its appearance on several of those who last came out of Boston." Biological warfare. Smallpox would eventually kill more in the Revolution than battle. Washington adds, "every necessary precaution has been taken to prevent its being communicated to this Army, & the General Court will take care, that it does not spread through the Country.

In his General Orders on December 12, Washington announces what was approved by Congress days earlier: the appointment of Colonel Henry Knox of Boston to a new position, fitting his role in the collection of cannons, Colonel of the Regiment of Artillery. Before the war, the 25-year-old owned and operated the "London Book Store" on today's Washington Street in Boston. His interest in military history and strategy led

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to him being self-taught using many of the books at his disposal. That same day, Washington receives news of the rapid spread of smallpox through the lines. Doctor John Morgan reports that the number of sick in and around the Cambridge camp "amounts to 676, but they have sometimes amounted to near 1,500."

While Washington struggles with disease, supplies, and maintaining army organization sieging Boston, December 16, 1775, marks the two-year anniversary since the Boston Tea Party. This instance would set the ball of continuing increases in hostilities that would eventually see a General Washington laying siege to former comrades in what many at the time viewed as a civil war. By 1775, many of the members of the Sons of Liberty who hurled tea into Boston Harbor would now lead prominent roles in the revolution. We've already mentioned Sam Adam's focus this week, being a Massachusetts delegate in the Continental Congress. Paul Revere at this time is working on behalf of

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Congress to better understand the milling of gunpowder in Philadelphia. John Handcock is President of the Continental Congress. Bennedict Arnold is leading the charge on Quebec in the far-north. Hamilton, Mulligan, and many others are still in training or on the periphery of the conflict, currently stationed in New York.

Thoughts for the Snowy Season

Seaside Gardener

By Laura McLean

Reality is setting in. First, a sighting of Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman waving at me from the fire trucks enroute to Mattapoisett's Shipyard Park.

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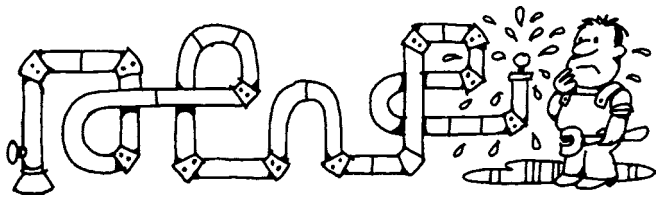

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Then, waking up to the loveliest of pictures: new-fallen snow with the gentle flakes still blanketing the ground. Not to mention the 14-degree temperature. With the winter solstice approaching this weekend we will surely understand what is ahead. Hint: Cold, quiet, peace.

The winter solstice marks the official beginning of astronomical winter (as opposed to meteorological winter, which starts about 3 weeks before the solstice). It occurs once a year in each hemisphere: December in the Northern Hemisphere and June in the Southern Hemisphere. On the day of the winter solstice, we are tilted as far away from the Sun as possible, which means that the Sun's path across the sky is as low in the sky as it can be. Think about the daily path of the Sun: It rises in the east and sets in the west, arcing across the sky overhead. During the summer, the Sun arcs high in the sky, but during the winter, it arcs lower, closer to the horizon.

The winter solstice (also known as mid-winter) is the shortest day and longest night of the year when Earth's pole is tilted farthest from the Sun. Cultures worldwide have celebrated this moment of deepest darkness, symbolizing rebirth, with festivals, rituals, and lights, as seen in ancient structures like Stonehenge aligned with the Sun.

It is at this time of year when the fleeting nature of everything is quite apparent. Thus, the New England gardener's lamentations begin anew as we face the reality and cruelty of change in the abject emptiness of the long cold season that we are entering, where growth ends, things die or go dormant.

It always catches me unaware... just when the fall temperatures mellow, the inevitable chill descends like a lead weight. The seasons come and go, and this is payback for having a glorious fall season. Alas, endings happen. But they, in turn, leave room for a new beginning.

A few weeks ago, on a particularly blustery day, a student drew my attention to the leaves streaming off a

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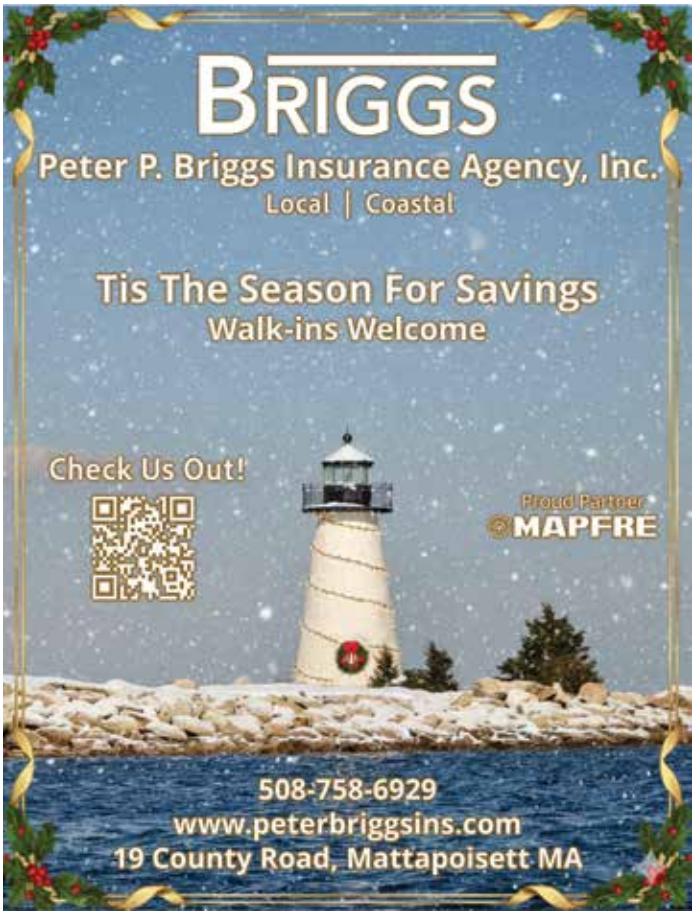
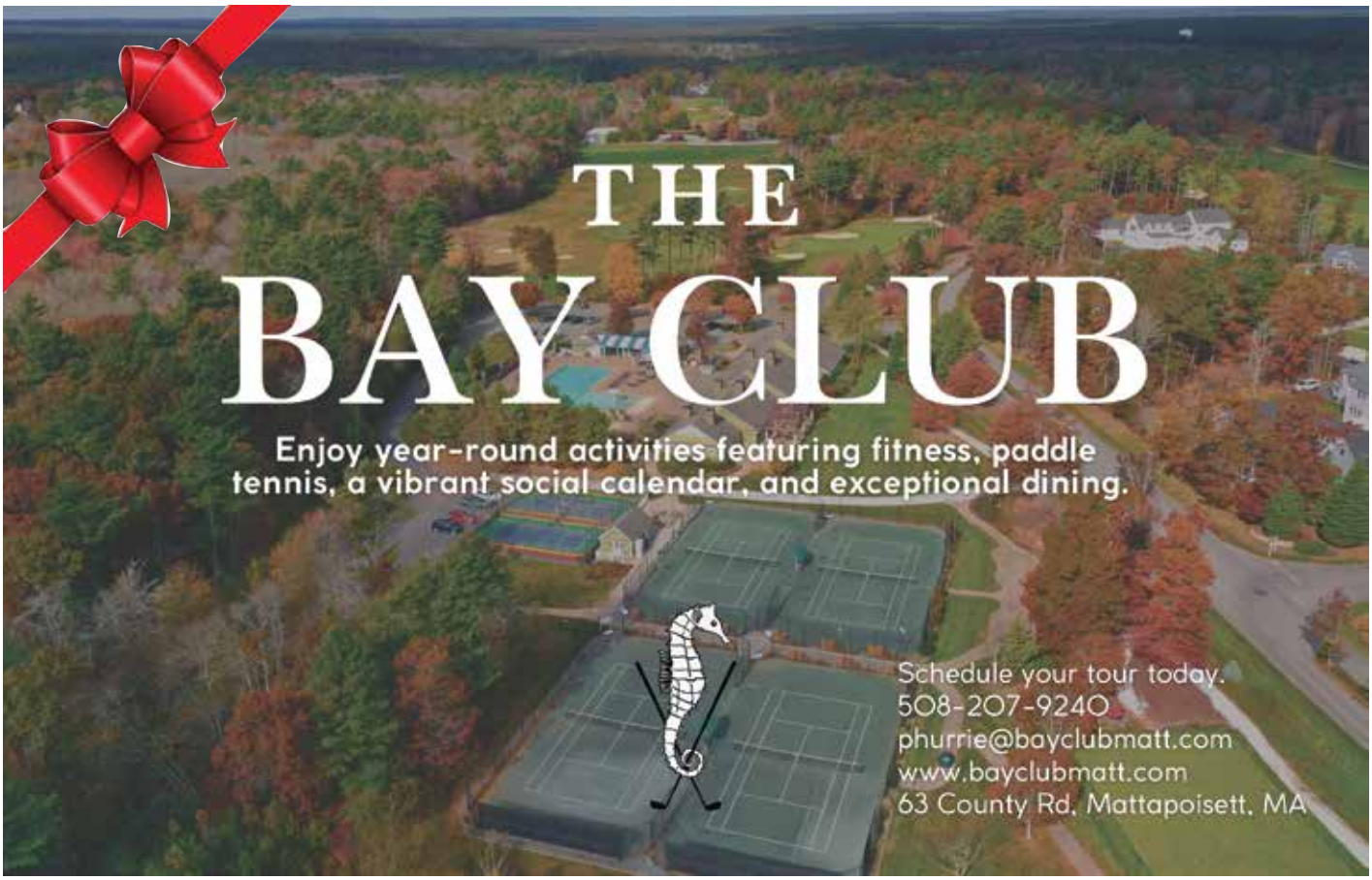


tree outside my classroom exclaiming, "Look, the tree is crying." Indeed, at that moment it seemed plausible, but viewed another way, it will be turning over new leaves in the near future. Fresh and unblemished ones!

Admittedly, the Sun's light will grow dim - comparatively. Yet when you think of light - does anyone really want to live in constant brightness? Along with that will come frost, ice, and snow. Without it the earth would stifle. Yesterday's gone, it's true. But nothing should be static. Don't see it as a nail in the coffin so much as a springboard to change and reinvention.

The jolt will surely be hard at first, but you'll soon get adjusted. Resigned to the season of nature's slumber,



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we can take heart in what was and what will be again. The earth will sleep for a while, but then will come alive again, as it always does. But more than memories and hopes, we can find the silver lining to - dare I say it? - WINTER!

Often just removing yourself from the immediate help. A visit to the city can renew one's sense of possibilities. Here are some more shiny thoughts to help you through the dark days:

-Decorate your window boxes. I put solar candelabras in each of mine and they look fabulous.

-Look for inspiration at flower shows, floral decorating classes and seminars.

-Enjoy a mid-winter breath of warmth - visit a greenhouse.

-Plan your next move, from seed and plant lists to redesigning your garden.

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-Try out things that were put aside. Like that bonsai kit your partner gave you last spring.

-Feed the birds and enjoy how they animate the landscape. (Rewatching Mary Poppins inspired me in that regard!)

-Clean out old files to make room for new ones.

-Enjoy the tranquility of nature! Nothing restores like a walk through a snowy wood.

Don't over-lament. Try to appreciate the good parts of the garden, even in barrenness. So much depends on how we perceive things. As my daughter Olivia offered: "It's not the season of doom and gloom, at least not until after the holidays have passed."

And remember, it's not goodbye, but rather a sweet adieu.

"What fire could ever equal the sunshine of a winter's day?" - Henry David Thoreau.

Six Tree Removals Approved, Black Oak Spared

Marion Select Board

By Sam Bishop

The Marion Select Board met on Tuesday for a Public Hearing for tree removal on Point Road and Washburn Park Road, as well as some other routine business and community updates.

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The board began with the chair of the Open Space Acquisition Commission, John Rockwell, being phoned in by Select Board Chair Randy Parker for the public hearing. Local Landscaper Steve Gonsalves spoke first in support of the removal of the trees for the Marion Shared Use Path. There was a list of seven trees designated for removal on the path's proposed route. "Out of the seven trees that are here, we are going to be able to save that Black Oak (Tree #6 on Washburn Park Road)." Gonsalves added the tree and its roots would be unharmed. "It's tough to see some of these trees go, but the path needs to go there." He said the state would give two trees for every one tree removed. So, 14 trees would be granted in total. These trees are to be removed in the spring of 2027.

The state is responsible for paying for the tree removals, not the town. He added the tree survey was of great benefit, as they discovered the white pine, or tree number 7, was at risk of falling due to rot. The hearing was closed; the black oak was removed from the list as it will be preserved.

Next, Children's Librarian Macy Davis of the Elizabeth Tabor Library spoke on a grant request for a desired project. A Community Biodiversity Grant of $35000 is sought for the establishment of an outdoor classroom space. It would be on the south side of the library, between the building and the Town House. No electrical or irrigation would be necessary. If funding by the state was awarded, final plans would be brought to the Select Board for approval.

The project would see six raised garden beds: half for pollinator garden plants and half for hands-on vegetable gardens. All-weather storage and stage as well as picnic tables and signage showing the importance of local organisms would also be constructed. Outdoor instruments would be powered-coated metal, storage and stage are to be pressure-treated wood.

It would all be specifically designed for outdoor use with children. The stage is about 3 inches tall. Hills asked and it was clarified that this and the accompanying

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project would fit into the library's decorating budget. Davis stated it would, with no funding alteration needed.

The current timeline shows funding awarded in February with surveying and planning following. The grand opening would be in June 2026. "This is still largely hypothetical" Davis said, as they await grant approval.

The select board unanimously approved the effort for the grant.

The board then, following a quick discussion, approved the Revised Water & Sewer Regulation Review Committee Charter.

Next, Luke Mello, currently in training, was appointed as Inspector of Animals. This inspector is shared between Marion and Mattapoisett, with the latter solely paying for the position.

The Southeastern Massachusetts Resource Recovery Facility (SEMASS) contract amendment was approved. This is a 5-year contract involving the waste-to-energy plant in Rochester.

The Marion Select Board has an Executive Session scheduled for Friday, December 19 at 3:00 pm involving negotiations with the Town Administrator. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 6 at 6pm.

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Town Seeks Clarity in ORR-Acushnet Deal

Rochester Select Board

By Michael J. DeCicco

The Rochester Select Board's biggest move Monday was to invite Old Rochester Regional School District Superintendent Michael Nelson to its January 20 meeting to learn more about ORR High School's plan to accept Acushnet students in the 2026-27 academic year.

Member Brad Morse began the discussion by noting he has seen too many social-media posts proclaiming what that deal between ORR and the Acushnet School Department will mean. He is especially bothered by talk of how much Acushnet will pay to send its high school students to ORR. In some media, it's a number far less than it'll cost ORR to accept those students, Morse noted. "My recommendation is to invite the superintendent in for our January 20 meeting," he said.

"We need to have a discussion in a public forum," Chair Adam Murphy said as he agreed to extend the invitation. "We want questions answered."

Town Administrator Cameron Durant noted negotiations between Acushnet and ORR aren't even happening yet. The December 9 meeting of the Acushnet School Committee agreed simply to start negotiations with both the City of New Bedford and ORR to form a new school-district partnership that would send Acushnet students to that community's high school. As only a point to start the negotiations, Acushnet had proposed paying 70% of what the state reimburses a community for its per pupil costs and had calculated that figure as $8,200 per student, Durant said. "That's just their starting point," he explained.

Murphy added that he is encouraged by the fact ORR has never said "that is the number" that will work for them. Rather, ORR has said "it's in the ballpark" of what would work for them.

ORR officials visited the Acushnet School Committee in August to give a presentation on why ORR should become the town's new partner for high school students. In early November, Acushnet school officials toured ORRHS. On November 20th, the ORR School Committee authorized Nelson to negotiate a tuition-based contract should Acushnet choose ORR for its new high school partner in anticipation of Acushnet's December 9 vote. Acushnet estimates having 120 high-school-age students in 2025-26, Nelson noted at the time, though approximately half of them attend Old Colony Regional Vocational-Technical High School in Rochester.

In other important business, Durant announced he is working on negotiating an inter-municipal agreement with Acushnet to share a Board of Health

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agent. He noted Acushnet has a similar inter-municipal pact with Mattapoisett to share a town planner.

Durant announced that a photo contest to determine the cover photo for Rochester's 2025 annual report has begun. Interested parties can visit the town website to submit their entry at townofrochestermass.com.

The board announced Eversource is scheduling vegetation maintenance work at 0 High Street and 0 County Road for some time between the winter and spring of 2026.

The board approved extending the contract to share the Lakeville Animal Shelter.

The board accepted Anne Fernandes' letter of resignation from the Rochester Memorial School Committee.

The next meeting of the Rochester Select Board is scheduled for Monday, December 29, at 6:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.

Stormwater Management Bylaw Editing

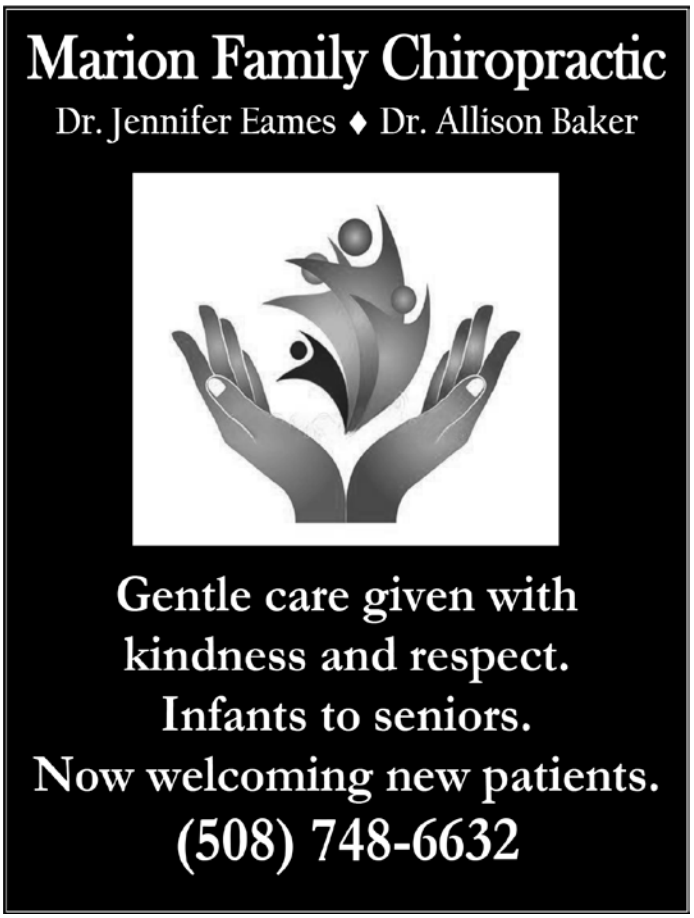
Marion Planning Board

By Sam Bishop

The Marion Planning Board met on Monday for a continued public hearing on the proposed adoption of stormwater management regulations to the Stormwater Management Bylaw.

First, the board approved the payment of an invoice to Toll Brothers Inc. for a Field Engineering Peer Preview of an unspecified amount. Then, they moved to the Public Hearing.

The changes include a definition change, plugged the Environmental Protection Agency's definition of "Larger Common Plan of Development." Chair Andrew Daniel read the definition from the agency's Stormwater Handbook, stating: "A continuous area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times on different schedules. Under one common plan, the common plan is any announcement of



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Most work at this meeting revolved around making the bylaw more concise and more generally understandable, specifically pertaining to Subdivision Regulations §300-4.6 of the bylaw.

The Public Hearing was continued to the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Marion Planning Board and hearings on the continuing process for the Stormwater Management Bylaw will be on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Marion Police Department.

Cottage Bylaw Ready for Hearing

Mattapoisett Planning Board

By Marilou Newell

Over many months of vigorous discussion regarding a new bylaw that may add a new type of housing unit in Mattapoisett, the Mattapoisett Planning Board is ready to debut the Cottage Bylaw.

As previously noted by the board, the purpose of the new bylaw is to allow condensed spacing for residential construction. Board members believe this housing option will give the town more flexibility in offering housing that meets the needs of a changing population – senior citizens looking to downsize and young families seeking to live in the community but unable to bear the high cost of housing. While the new bylaw is not addressing the issue of affordability, the major stumbling block facing young families, the board believes it will help none-the-less.

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On December 5 the board meeting took up the bylaw language in a final push to get it before the public in advance of the spring town meeting.

Presently, the bylaw allows the cottage structures to be up to 1,500 square-feet, with a main floor of 900 square feet. Other dimensional requirements are one cottage per lot, a maximum height of 25 feet, front setbacks 25 feet, side setback of 10 feet, and rear setbacks of 15 feet. Each living unit will have two parking spaces, and 200 square-feet of open space.

The draft language also notes there will be 12-feet between units, and no detached accessory buildings except shared community structures.

Other notable language in the proposed new bylaw states a reduction in structural size will lessen visual impact versus conventional residences, with an intent to foster the creation of intimate communities that revolve around communal spaces, creating pedestrian friendly neighborhoods.

One drawback brought up during the meeting was the possibility of property owners charging more for buildable land given that the new bylaw would allow ten housing units per acre. They concurred that was a possibility.

The board is planning a public meeting on February 2 to vet the new bylaw. The venue is to-be-announced.

In other business, coming before the board on this night was Steven Cabral for property located at 182 North Street. The property owner is Dennis Mahoney and Sons, Inc. The subdivision and is for the creation of a family compound. It was learned that the entrance and exit to the property will be located at the cul-da-sac at the end of Shady Oak Drive.

Representing the applicant of this subdivision was David Davignon of Schneider Davignon and Leone. He described the development as a family compound consisting of four, four bed single-family dwellings with septic systems, and private water supplies. Davignon clarified that entrance and exit to the subdivision will be located at the end of Shady Oak Drive and not off North Street.

Drainage systems while described as "country

drainage" will be further defined when the applicant begins full vetting presenting engineered drawings, comments from the fire department and from Natural Heritage, and the Board of Health. The application was continued.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Planning Board is scheduled for Monday, January 5.

Firing Range Hours Shortened

Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals

By Michael J. DeCicco

In a room packed with grumbling neighbors, Rochester's Zoning Board of Appeals on December 11 approved a Special Permit to allow firearms and tactical training range at 0 County Road.

The 2.3 acres there is currently the site of the "Fox Den" firearms training facility owned by Steve Morrell, who is selling the property to John Vasvalekis. Morrell told the board the site's use will not change. It will continue to be used as an outdoor firearms and tactical training facility for local, state, and federal law enforcement, military personnel, and the general public. "It will continue to serve the community and help people be more capable," Vasvalekis added.

The push back against this plan started when ZBA Chair Donald Spirlet read aloud the letter from the association president of nearby Connet Woods and

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former ZBA Chair David Arancio. The letter urged the applicant to have strong communication with abutters and neighbors and to do something about the current operation's concentration of noisy night activities.

From there, neighbors in attendance focused their complaints similarly on the noise that they said the current operation generates. Dennis Santora said he was not a direct abutter but an abutter of the noise. He asked if sound barriers could be added and whether there could be groundwater testing for the lead contamination that could come from spent bullet shells. A resident of 49 High Street complained there is nothing to buffer the operation's noise because of the low-lying cranberry bogs in the area. Referring to the 8:00 am to 8:00 pm hours of operation on the original permit, he said, "there ought to be more restrictions on the times of operation and the caliber of guns they can use. There's no down time for the residents with these hours."

Spirlet noted that sometimes the gunfire noise in that area comes from other residents who are not affiliated with the "Fox Den" operation, firing their own weapons as target practice. Morrell offered that he notifies the police chief of large training groups and has a website for posting his schedule.

Ultimately, the board granted the permit with conditions that include cutting the hours of operation that were within the original permit down to 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Saturday; Sunday hours 12:00 pm noon to 6:00 pm. The permit allows occasional night training that must end by 8:00 pm and must be approved by the police chief. The permit mandates that no caliber higher than 468 be used. Vasvalekis must post the night training schedule on his company website to keep residents better informed.

The meeting began with the board accepting a bid from applicant Sandra Jones to withdraw without prejudice her frontage-requirement variance petition for a new two-family home at 309 Neck Road. The board continued this hearing from its November meeting after Building Commissioner Paul Boucher noted that a variance of such frontage requirements should not be allowed. Spirlet announced on December 11 that Town Counsel agreed with Boucher's point of view. Jones said she has already filed a Special Permit petition for the plan, the preferred route to seek board approval.

Lastly, the board approved two side-setback variances to allow a 16x22 addition to the garage at 194 Burgess Avenue.

The next meeting of the Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.

Heron Cove Estates Variance Granted

Marion Zoning Board of Appeals

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Marion Zoning Board of Appeals in the Police Station's conference room on December 11 approved a variance for Heron Cove Estates, a proposed development that has changed from 125 proposed apartment units to 57 town houses.

The ZBA at a joint-meeting with the Select Board on November 13 discussed whether the ZBA could even vote on a variance for a project that has drastically changed.

Select Board members were all in agreement that the board could indeed vote on the variance and that the project would boast economic benefits to the town.

Ken Steen of Steen Realty and Attorney Ken Debrowski outlined the economic hardships for developers, ranging from rising construction costs since the apartment project was proposed, as well as $1 million needed to build a retaining wall that abuts the nearest property on the west side of the development.

Debrowski and Steen also mentioned that the topography of the area would also be an economic drain to the developers.

"The land has to be filled and graded, and costs of raw materials are out of sight," Steen said. "It has gone

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crazy."

The ZBA unanimously granted the variance and expressed no opposition.

At the November 13 joint-meeting, Select Board Vice Chair John Hoagland said that the scaled-down version of the project will likely attract older people without families. He said the development would connect to the town's sewer and water, helping improve that infrastructure, as well as make road improvements in that area.

Hoagland also said that the development's close proximity to town businesses would be a boon to the local economy.

He and other Select Board members said the developer has also promised around $500,000 to the town in addition to tax revenue.

The next meeting of the Marion Zoning Board of Appeals will be on Thursday, January 8.

Solar Arrays, Stone Walls, and Senior Living

Rochester Planning Board

By Michael J. DeCicco

The Rochester Planning Board Tuesday approved the waivers and began the draft decision phase for the Special Permit and Site Plan Review permit for Logging Swamp Solar's plan to install a solar panel array on 49 acres in the area of 600 Snipatuit Road.

Project representative Zach Farkes of Rewild Renewables began the discussion by asking if the board was okay with the $2500 Stormwater Bond being proposed and the location of the access road, which is being moved north because abutters were requesting it be placed further from their properties.

Farkes said he was particularly concerned about the road redesign because its new location encroaches on a stone wall and the town typically tries to protect and preserve such walls. Board members, however, said they had no problem with the stone wall's new location because addressing the residents' concerns are

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the priority. Abutter Lisa Christiansen, in fact, said to the developer's consultants before the hearing closed and the waivers were approved, "Thank you for working with us and accommodating our requests."

Chair Arnold Johnson said he had no problem with the proposed bond. In fact, he complimented the developer on proposing one that does not low ball what the board usually requests.

The plan covers 35 acres of a 2,000-acre wooded property bordered on one side by Northern Avenue and surrounded by a 350-acre swamp.

The meeting began by endorsing two Approval Not Required applications, one for 192 Pierce St. and the other for Walnut Plain Road. The plan for 192 Pierce St. is work on a five-acre conversion parcel out a 242-acre property. The plan for Walnut Plain Road is to subdivide the acreage there into three lots.

The board later approved the waivers for the Site Plan Review permit for Afonso Built Homes' plan for a Townhouse development within Rochester Crossroads. The plan here is for a total of 15 buildings and a total of 44 units in a series of three-unit and two-unit buildings, with a drive-under garage and driveway parking spots. Here too Johnson said the board will now write the permit's draft decision.

In other action, the board approved two other important draft decisions. It endorsed the Site Plan Review permit for a 68-unit age 55-and-over senior living apartment building proposed for Rochester Crossroad. It also approved the Site Plan Review and Special Permit application for the 53 Dexter Lane floating solar array project.

The board continued to its next meeting its hearing into a modification of the "Sniptauit Ponds Estates" Definitive Subdivision Plan for Gerrish and Bishop Roads that was approved in 1979. The request here is to swap two parcels of open space land and create a 3.578-acre buildable lot on one of them. Johnson said the town prefers open space to be donated to the town. A land swap would require that the land being swapped is of equal or lesser value. Applicant Robert Pellegrini said the land appraisal that will answer that question was only received that day and will be forwarded to th3e board. The board also extended this project's decision deadline to January 31, 2026.

The board also continued to its next meeting the hearing for the Definitive Subdivision Plan for 19 County Road, in the area of West Wareham.

The Rochester Planning Board's next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.

Budget Increase From Health Insurance

Marion Board of Health

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Marion Board of Health met on December 11 in the Town Hall Annex and approved a preliminary fiscal 2027 budget increase of 2.8-percent.

Health Director Lori Desmarais noted that the largest increase will be connected to an initiative to create online permitting. She said that it costs $6,750 to start-up the process around that same amount annually. That said, that line item is slated for $13,500.

She said she is looking at grant opportunities to pay for the start-up costs.

Other increases include a recertification stipend

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for Health Agent Gabrielle Almeida, who is eligible for this stipend increase as an assistant inspector and evaluator.

Desmarais also budgeted an additional $100 for advertising costs with some demolition projects expected to occur this year.

Desmarais said that, based on recent data, she was able to budget fewer funds for cell phone expenses for health employees.

Desmarais said that there will be a 25-percent increase in health insurance costs, especially ones that are tied to pensions, a line item with no wiggle room.

Board of Health members applauded Desmarais' budget work but said it might be hard to justify a 2.8-percent increase when most departments are increasing by only 2-percent.

Board members asked her to talk with Select Board members about using capital funds for the online permitting system.

At this short meeting, board members agreed to the same schedule of meeting every first and third Thursday of the month.

The board will not meet on January 1, being a holiday, so the next Marion Board of Health meeting will be on Thursday, January 15.

Lower Than Desired; Higher Than State-Average

Marion School Committee

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Marion School Committee met on Thursday, December 11 and went over MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) scores, which have improved slightly over previous years but are still above the state average in mathematics, science and English Language Arts (ELA).

Superintendent Michael Nelson explained that MCAS testing is at an interesting crossroad since the 2024 state ballot that removed the testing as a graduation requirement. School Committee Member Nichole Daniel noted the district's decline and how it is concerning for both officials and parents.

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Sharlene Fedorowicz and Sippican Elementary Principal Lynn Dessert attributed some of the decline to new programming at both Sippican Elementary and the entire Tri-Town district, which also encompasses Mattapoisett and Rochester.

Both said that the data helped educators analyze the strengths and weaknesses and curtail education toward strengthening the weaknesses such as small-group instruction opportunities and using scheduled flex time to target problem areas.

Overall, students in grades 4 through 8 improved slightly in the past year in ELA but not in math. In grade 10, math scores were stagnant but showed a slight decrease in ELA. Still, the district outperformed the state in math, ELA, and science.

Fedorowicz said that in grade 3 through 6, Marion students outperformed the state average by 2-percent in ELA; 5-percent in math; and 11-percent in science.

Fedorowicz noted that in ELA, more students scored in the exceeded expectations category than in previous years.

Dessert noted that students in ELA in the older elementary grades made significant strides toward analyzing texts using evidence and understanding the purpose of a text.

However, students need more support with evidence-based writing.

In math, by grade 6, students demonstrated strong, deeper reasoning skills but needed more hands-on activities to deepen pre-algebra skill, Dessert said. She noted that by Grade 6, students were expressing a strong grasp of Earth science, astronomy and engineering but needed to strengthen their science vocabulary and writing about the sciences.

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standard-aligned instruction and increase student discourse and make sure students are talking (about academic content)," she told the School Committee.

In other business, Nelson said he is preparing two budgets for Fiscal Year 2027 – one with level service numbers and another with additional needs beyond the level service request from town finance officials. He said budget deliberations will center around mathematics, technology and enrollment issues.

The next meeting of the Marion School committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026.

Bulldogs Take Win into Home Opener

Sports Roundup

By Aiden Comorosky

The Old Rochester Regional High School girls basketball team played their first game of the season on December 12 at New Bedford High and won 58-40. Sadie Hartley-Matteson was named the player of the game. The Bulldogs will host Seekonk on Friday, December 19, in the ORR gym.

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Debate League's First Tournament to Spark 2025-26 Season

Old Rochester kicked off the 2025-2026 debate season with hundreds of debaters and judges from around 15 local high schools.

Members of the Southeastern Massachusetts Debate League (SEMDL), which aims to elevate the next generation of critical thinkers and communicators, gathered on Wednesday, December 3, at the Old Rochester Regional High School for the season's first tournament.

"The size of the league has grown so we packed every possible space at Old Rochester Regional High School," said ORRHS Social Studies Teacher Dr. Colin Everett. "This year the league is debating the following resolution: 'The United States federal government should significantly increase its exploration and/or development of the Arctic.'"

The policy-style debate focused on this season's specific, nationwide topic. The competition employs a 2 vs 2 debate format. Judges sat in classrooms with four students at a time, as a pair from one school argued the affirmatives, and a pair from another school argued the negatives.

Old Rochester Regional debaters won nine of their debates and lost six. Old Rochester's team included the following student debaters: Cadogan Crete, Alexandra Fiano, Aurora Froes, Madeleine Gendreau, Penelope Angeley, Paige Marotta, Max Ohrenberger, Angela Palmer, Subhav Parajuli, Isabella Perez-Dormitzer, Luke Pierre, Eva Pinhancos, Emerson Roy, Catherine Sylvia-Everett, Olivia Thompson, Owen Travers, and Elena Villafranca.

"I'm always impressed by the talent displayed by Old Rochester's debate team," said ORRHS Principal Mike Devoll. "This exercise is such a valuable experience for everyone involved. The powers of persuasion are vital to success in the everyday life of modern professionals. These debates help our students to hone those skills early."

The League will meet again on January 7 in Hanover (North) or Bishop Stang (South), on January 28 in Taunton, on February 11 in New Bedford, and for the finals on February 25 in West Bridgewater.

Besides Old Rochester, the following high schools participate in the SEMDL: Bishop Feehan, Bishop Stang, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional, Cohasset, Fairhaven, Foxborough, Hanover, Hingham, New Bedford, Rising Tide Charter Public School, Silver Lake Regional, Sturgis Charter Public School, Taunton and West Bridgewater Middle-Senior.

"These debates require the students to think critically on their feet while pulling together cohesive and persuasive arguments," said Superintendent Michael S. Nelson. "No matter the winner, the students who gather to compete at these debate tournaments walk away with incredibly valuable skillsets."

Five ORRHS Students Recognized by National Merit Scholarship Program

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson and Principal Michael Devoll are proud to announce that five Old Rochester Regional High School seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The seniors - Caroline Achilles, Jacob Iappini, Ella Milhench, Hannah Thorell and Linden White - will each receive a Letter of Commendation from Principal Devoll and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

About 34,000 students nationwide are recognized as Commended Students each year for strong performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit

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Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). These students placed among the top 50,000 scorers who entered the 2026 program.

"These five seniors earned this outstanding recognition through hard work and a commitment to their studies," said Principal Devoll. "We see their efforts inside and outside of the classroom every day, and we are proud to celebrate this recognition with them."

Director of Guidance Christina M. Costello Cioffi said the students' achievements speak to both individual effort and a supportive school community.

"It's inspiring to watch students earn achievements like this," Cioffi said. "Each of these seniors have strong work ethic and put in real effort, and we are excited to see them recognized for their dedication and determination."

Superintendent Nelson congratulated the seniors on being named Commended Students.

"Caroline, Jacob, Ella, Hannah and Linden set high standards for themselves," Superintendent Nelson said. "Their work and the encouragement and support they receive both at home and in school make achievements like this possible. We are incredibly proud of them."

A spokesperson for NMSC said Commended Students "have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success" and described them as a "valuable national resource" whose accomplishments help strengthen academic excellence across the country.

Center School Principal Linda Ashley to Retire at End of School Year

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson announces that Center School Principal Linda Ashley plans to retire at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year.

The district will begin the search process for the next principal in the coming weeks. Superintendent Nelson will share updates with staff and families as the process moves forward.

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PUBLIC ACCESS
Comcast Channel 9
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Thursday December 18, 2025
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
8:30 AM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Paul Thomas
9:30 AM Mattapoisett Woman's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews
10:30 AM Rochester Historical Society - Cemeteries, Genealogy, & the Revolutionary War
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
1:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:00 PM The Collective Chat
2:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
3:00 PM MAC Jazz Jam
4:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
6:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
6:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
7:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
7:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
8:00 PM Teach Your Home Energy Costs! with David Green
9:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - The Early Life of Humpback Whales
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Friday December 19, 2025
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Southcoast Matters
11:30 AM Fall Family Fun Day
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Rochester Affordable Housing Inc ADU Presentation
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
3:30 PM The Collective Chat
3:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
3:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Paul Thomas
5:00 PM Tri-Town Veterans Day Events
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM A Conversation With…
9:30 PM Fur, Fins and Feathers
10:00 PM For Your Health
10:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Saturday December 20, 2025
6:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival
9:30 AM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
11:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
11:30 AM Fall Family Fun Day
12:00 PM Mid-Day Movie
2:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:30 PM The Human Truth - with Chuck McIntyre
3:00 PM The Collective Chat
3:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Paul Thomas
5:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - 100 Years of the H12 with Halsey Herreshoff
6:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Sea Turtles in Massachusetts
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrocast - with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 PM A Conversation with…
10:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
10:30 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movies

Sunday December 21, 2025
7:00 AM Lamb of God Christian Church
8:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
9:00 AM First Congregational Church of Rochester
10:00 AM St Gabriel's Church
11:00 AM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
1:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
2:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Shift
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
4:00 PM Miss New Bedford
5:00 PM Putnam Murdock Concert at the Marion Art Center
7:00 PM ORR Boys Soccer vs North Reading
8:30 PM ORR Homecoming Pep Rally
9:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Monday December 22, 2025
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Shift
10:30 AM A Conversation With…
11:00 AM For Your Health
11:30 AM Money Matters
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters
2:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
3:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
3:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
4:30 PM The Human Truth
5:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
6:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
7:30 PM Sippican Historical Society - Women's Involvement in the History of Preservation in New England
8:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - The Early Life of Humpback Whales
9:30 PM The Collective Chat
10:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
10:30 PM AMC Outdoor Journey Fund
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Tuesday December 23, 2025
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM For Your Health: Stress
8:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
10:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartooning
10:30 AM The Collective Chat
11:00 AM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
11:30 AM In the Toy Box
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Point Road Park Renaming Ceremony
1:30 PM Miss New Bedford Insider
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
3:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
4:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus On Europe
4:30 PM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
5:00 PM Four Deep Sports Talk
6:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - 100 years of the Herreshoff H-12
8:00 PM The Beacon Hill Report
9:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movie

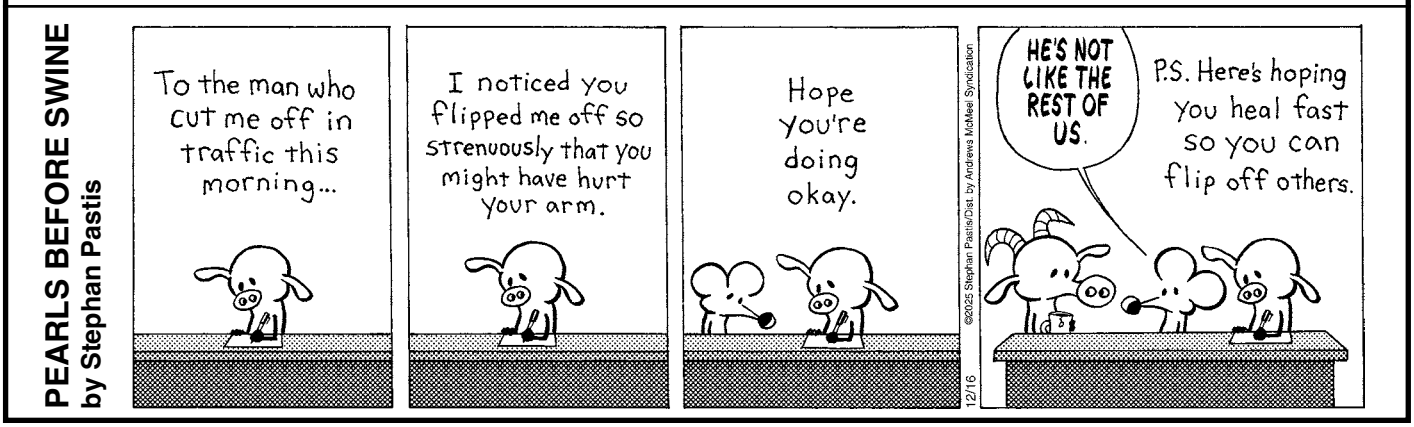
Wednesday December 24, 2025
Christmas Programming

MARION GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 39
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Marion Board of Selectmen
7:30 AM Marion Planning Board
8:00 AM Marion Finance Committee
8:30 AM Marion Special Town Meeting
10:00 AM Marion Board of Health
11:00 AM Marion Board of Health
11:30 AM Marion Water and Sewer
1:00 PM ORR School Committee
3:00 PM Marion Marine Resources
4:00 PM Marion Affordable Housing Committee
5:00 PM Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission
6:30 PM Marion School Committee
7:00 PM Marion Board of Selectmen
7:30 PM Marion Special Town Meeting
9:00 PM Marion Planning Board
10:00 PM Marion Board of Health
11:00 PM Marion Water and Sewer

ROCHESTER GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 40
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen
8:00 AM Rochester Conservation Commission
9:00 AM Rochester Planning Board
10:30 AM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
11:30 AM Rochester School Committee
1:30 PM ORR School Committee
3:30 PM ORR Joint School Committee
5:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
6:00 PM Rochester Planning Board
7:30 PM Rochester Conservation Commission
8:30 PM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
9:30 PM Rochester Public Safety Facility Building Committee
10:30 PM Rochester School Committee

EDUCATION CHANNEL
Comcast Channel 8
Verizon Channel 37
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Bulldog Weekly
7:30 AM Bulldog Sports
8:00 AM ORR School Committee
10:00 AM ORR Joint School Committee
11:30 AM Old Colony National Honor Society Ceremony
12:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
12:30 PM Bulldog Sports
1:00 PM ORR Graduation
2:30 PM ORR Boys Soccer vs GNBVT
4:00 PM Old Colony Graduation
5:00 PM ORR Promenade
5:30 PM Bulldog Sports
6:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
6:30 PM ORR Football vs Apponequet
8:30 PM ORR Unified Basketball
9:00 PM ORR Girls Soccer vs Durfee
10:30 PM ORR Volleyball

MATTAPOISETT GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 38


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis
To the man who cut me off in traffic this morning...
I noticed you flipped me off so strenuously that you might have hurt your arm.
Hope you're doing okay.
HE'S NOT LIKE THE REST OF US.
P.S. Here's hoping you heal fast so you can flip off others.
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12/16

Dr. Ashley became principal at the Center School on July 1, 2022, bringing with her more than 35 years of experience as an educator, school leader, curriculum director, and advocate for high-quality instruction and family engagement.

Before arriving at the Center School, Dr. Ashley served as a principal in Franklin, Milford, and Norton Public Schools, as well as a curriculum director supporting teaching and learning across PreK-12 grade levels. Her background includes leading a National Blue Ribbon School, guiding schools recognized for high achievement and growth, expanding professional development systems, and strengthening curriculum, data-informed instruction, and multi-tiered systems of support.

Superintendent Nelson praised Dr. Ashley's steady leadership and the impact she has had on students, staff, and families.

"Speaking for the school district, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Dr. Ashley's leadership at the Center School," Superintendent Nelson said. "Since coming to the Center School, Dr. Ashley has supported our staff with thoughtful guidance, strengthened communication with families, and fostered a school environment where young learners feel cared for, encouraged, and excited to grow."

"We are deeply grateful for her leadership," Superintendent Nelson added. "Please join me in thanking Dr. Ashley for her service to the Center School and all of our students. We wish her the very best in her well-earned retirement."

During her tenure, Dr. Ashley strengthened communication with families, supported the

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Sunday 12noon-9:30pm

implementation of instructional best practices across classrooms, and continued building a warm, nurturing school culture defined by collaboration, curiosity, and community pride.

Dr. Ashley expressed her appreciation for the Center School community and for the honor of serving the students there.

"Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my professional journey," Dr. Ashley said. "I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me and for the opportunity to lead such an extraordinary school. I am especially proud of the progress we have made together - strengthening instructional practices, nurturing a culture of belonging, and placing students' well-being at the heart of our work. Thank you for the privilege of serving this wonderful community. The relationships and memories I've made here will remain among the greatest gifts of my career. I will be cheering on Center School and the entire Mattapoisett community for years to come."

Christmas Day Swim

Please join us for a fun family tradition that helps those in need. Helping Hands and Hooves will host the 22nd annual **Christmas Day** Swim at 11:00 am at Mattapoisett Town Beach.

Each swimmer is asked to donate $20 (payable on the day of the swim). The first 75 swimmers will receive a festive long-sleeved T-shirt. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Helping Hands and Hooves, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit based in Mattapoisett dedicated to providing therapeutic horseback riding lessons for adults with disabilities.

If you would like to learn more about Helping Hands and Hooves, please go to our website: helpinghandsandhooves.org. If you have any questions, please call Debbi Dyson at 508-758-4717 or email info@helpinghandsandhooves.org.

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OBITUARIES

Barbara (Cochrane) Nicholson, 99 years old, passed away peacefully, at Alden Court in Fairhaven, MA after a period of declining health. She was the wife of the late William T. Nicholson, Sr. Born and raised in Fitchburg, MA daughter of the late Harold and Eleanor (Everett) Cochrane, even as a child, Barbara was adventurous, curious, and fiercely independent. Her father brought her up to believe that women could do anything that men could do and she never forgot that. At the age of 16, she wanted to take flying lessons and her father encouraged her to do so; her mother was not as enthusiastic. She would ride her bike to the Fitchburg Airport to take her lessons and was proud to complete her solo touch and go and received her pilot's license before getting her driver's license.

Barbara graduated high school went on to study at Simmons College in Boston. She wanted to be an Engineer and at that time there was not a program for women at Simmons so although they encouraged her to take Medical Secretary courses, she insisted on the Chemistry courses. Upon graduating from Simmons, she went on to work as a chemist at a textile mill in Providence Rhode Island. That is where she met Bill. Once married, she and Bill lived in several states due to his career as a Power Engineer.

They settled in North Kingstown Rhode Island and raised their son William (Nick) Nicholson, Jr. It was in North Kingstown that she embarked on a new career as a math teacher at North Kingstown Junior High School for 25 years.

Barbara and Bill enjoyed many years sailing on Narragansett Bay, traveling to Block Island, Newport, Cuttyhunk, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. They were members of the East Greenwich Yacht Club. She and Bill also enjoyed their condo on Marco Island. After losing Bill in 1982, Barbara retired from teaching. She attended the Leisure Learning Groups at the Council on Aging where she learned photography and computers. Her love of photography served her well on her many trips to Europe, British Isles, Scandinavia, Alaska, and the Galapagos Islands. She also enjoyed train travel across the United States and Canada.

Prior to moving closer to her son and daughter-in-law in August of 2013, she was an active member of the Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich, RI. She was proud of the fact that her maternal grandparents were Unitarian Ministers traveling and preaching where needed.

Survivors include her son William "Nick" Nicholson, Jr. and his wife Gail (Bauer) Nicholson of Mattapoisett, a grandson, Daniel Gill of Providence RI, a sister-in-law Judith Cochrane of Fitchburg, and many nieces and nephews that she held close in her heart. She was predeceased by her brother Dr. Paul Cochrane of Fitchburg, MA.

Her family would like to thank the staff of Alden Court Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Fairhaven MA for the compassionate care they gave to Barbara during the 2 years that she resided there and also to the SouthCoast VNA Hospice team who treated her with loving care and helped to maintain her dignity. Each and every one of you are angels on earth and the family will never forget you.

At this time, the family will plan a celebration of Barbara's life at a later date. Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals in Mattapoisett MA.

Barbara was known by staff and residents at Alden Court for her smile and positive attitude. In her memory, please spread kindness and be the reason someone smiles.

George E. Foster, 82, of Westport, passed away peacefully on Saturday morning, December 13, 2025 surrounded by loved ones after a long period of declining health. He was the husband of the late Susan J. (Drinkwater) Foster.

Mr. Foster was born in Taunton, son of the late G. Edward and Helen (Randall White) Foster, of colonial heritage dating back to 1630, settling southeastern Massachusetts. He was an Eagle Scout in his youth, and later a graduate of Taunton High School and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He was a longtime resident of Westport and had a long career in public service, banking, and finance. He retired after 25 years from the Town of Westport as the unopposed elected Town Treasurer. Prior to serving the Town of Westport, he worked for the U.S. Treasury, as Vice President of Fairhaven Savings Bank, as the Westport elected Diman RVTHS school committee member, and as Southern MA Health Group's founding treasurer. He was a member of the Noquochoke Lodge A.F. & A.M., Westport. He loved traveling with his wife, Sue, especially going on cruises, and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He also loved dogs, the ocean, and watching the stock market.

Survivors include his 6 children: Lisa D. Foster and her husband Amir Dabiri of Redington Shores, FL, Lori B. Scheffler and her husband Mike of Tiverton, RI, Randi L. Skeper and her husband Chris of Reading, MA, Kevin M. Porter of Mattapoisett, MA, Andrea Porter-Lopez and her husband Antonio of Portland, OR and Karen Gheesling and her husband Dominic of Portland, OR; his sister: Helen Sauer of Canonsburg, PA; 7 grandchildren: Ethan, Zachary, Benjamin, William, George, Emmett and Diego; along with many nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Eunice Wysong.

Memorial visitation to which relatives and friends are invited will be Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at the Potter Funeral Home, 81 Reed Rd., Westport, MA 02790, from 5-7 pm. with a Masonic Service at 6:45 pm.

Continued on page 32

Accessory Dwelling Unit Presentation

There will be an ADU Presentation on Wednesday, **January 7** at 5:30 p.m. at the Marion Council on Aging presented by Buz Artiano will be here along with Bob Grillo, Marion Building Commissioner.

You Will Learn: What is an ADU? What goes into making an ADU? Who is an ADU for? What can YOU build? What are the ADU laws? There will also be a question-and-answer period, light refreshments will be served.

Children's Department at the Mattapoisett Library

From now until the end of January, we are collecting donations for local food pantries in the form of non-perishable food, pet food, diapers, cleaning supplies, and items to support personal hygiene. Thank you to those who have already donated. Your generosity has made all the difference.

On Thursday, **December 18**, you can come make a super soft and snuggly fleece pillow with a wonderfully festive snowman design. Ages 6 and up. Due to limited supplies, registration is required. This program starts at 3:45 pm and ends at 4:30 pm.

Missing our storytimes? No need to worry. We will be having a Cozy Winter Storytime on Saturday, **December 20**, at 10:30 am. All are welcome, and no registration is required. Speaking of storytimes, our Family and Baby Storytimes will be back starting in January, so keep an eye out for more info on that.

To register for our events or for more information, please check out our website, mattapoisettlibrary.org, or give us a call at 508-758-4171. We hope to see you in the library soon. Until then, keep reading.

Call for Entries for the Winter Members' Show

The Marion Art Center announces a call for entries for the Winter Members' Show opening **January 10** with a reception from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The show runs through February 6. All members may enter a piece. Works must be original, must have been executed by the artist within the last five years, and must not have been previously shown at the Marion Art Center. The MAC will not exhibit works that are in poor condition (including frame) or are not properly prepared for easy installation.

To exhibit, members should drop off artwork at the MAC at 80 Pleasant Street, Marion, on Saturday, January 3 between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm or Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Artists may download and print the consignment agreement ahead of time, found online at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit. Anyone wishing

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OBITUARIES

Memorial service will be Thursday, December 18, 2025 at Westport United Congregational Church, 500 American legion Hwy., Westport, MA 02790 at 10:00 am.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Children's at www.donate.shrinerschildrens.org

For directions or to sign the online guestbook, please visit www.potterfuneralservice.com.

David L. Pendergast, 75, who divided his time between Boston and Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, and Naples, Florida, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Friday, December 12, 2025. He was the beloved and devoted husband of Mary (Bevelock) Pendergast.

Born in Boston, David was the son of the late William and Betty (McCarthy) Pendergast. He was raised in Dedham and Weston, Massachusetts, where he formed friendships that remained central to his life. He was a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University and earned a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, forming enduring friendships at both institutions that became lifelong bonds. He also earned a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Fordham University.

David lived a life devoted to public service and advocacy, particularly in the field of mental health, a calling that reflected both his deep compassion and his belief in the dignity of every person. His career included roles as Director of Aftercare at the Erich Lindemann Mental Health Center and Chief Psychologist of the Inpatient Unit at Medfield State Hospital, as well as Director of Behavioral Health Services for Network Development at Harvard Community Health Plan. He was especially proud of his work as an expert witness in a class action lawsuit brought by the Disability Rights Center of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Following that case, he was appointed by the U.S. Federal Court as Commissioner of Mental Health in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he represented consumers of mental health services and their families and made a lasting and meaningful difference in countless lives.

David possessed an insatiable curiosity and a deep love of learning, paired with a quick wit and a gift for conversation. He had a remarkable ability to connect with people through humor, storytelling, and genuine interest, and his warmth and intellect drew others to him. This same charisma extended to the dance floor, where he delighted in twirling and swirling his partner through each step, confidently leading with style, joy, and unmistakable flair. His interests were wide-ranging, including sports, fitness, music, history, politics, and travel, but above all, he cherished his family and friends.

A devoted New England sports fan, David followed the Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots, Boston Celtics, and all New England teams with passion, celebrating their triumphs and debating their shortcomings with equal enthusiasm. His own competitive nature was a defining part of his life and found expression through sport and fitness. He played rugby into his 30s, cycled countless miles, took up boxing in his 60s, and relished hard-fought battles on the tennis court, competing in tournaments until his diagnosis. Fitness was integral to his daily routine, including multiple rounds of 100 pushups.

An avid student of history, David held a particular admiration for Winston Churchill, whose leadership and words he often quoted. He delighted in spirited political debate, thoughtful conversation, and sharing ideas late into the night.

While he achieved many professional accomplishments, David's greatest legacy is the extraordinary network of deep and enduring relationships he cultivated throughout his life. He was fiercely loyal to his friends, deeply devoted to his family, and unwaveringly devoted to his wife, Mary, with whom he shared a life of companionship, love, laughter, and mutual respect. He had a profound and lasting impact on all who knew him, especially his nieces and nephews, who adored him.

David is survived by his wife, Mary; his siblings, Peter Pendergast; Beth Pendergast and her husband, Walter Arsenault; Julie Pendergast and her husband, George Vega; and Cindy Pendergast, the wife of his late brother, William. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Patricia Bevelock; his father-in-law, James Bevelock; his sisters-in-law, Tricia and her husband, John O'Reilly; Ginny and her husband, Mike Morhardt; Laurie and her husband, Henry Ho; and his brother-in-law, Greg Bevelock and his wife, AnaMaria; as well as 17 nieces and nephews, 16 great-nieces and nephews, and many loving cousins.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Linda Pendergast, and by his brother, William Pendergast.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the remarkable team of nurses from Nursing Liaisons for their compassion, professionalism, and exceptional care.

Visiting hours will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2025, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Road, Mattapoisett. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 19, 2025, at 12:00 noon at St. Anthony's Church, 26 Hammond Street, Mattapoisett, followed by burial in St. Anthony's Cemetery. For online guestbook, please visit www.saundersdwyer.com

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (www.pancan.org).

If you have a notice you would like to have included in the Obituaries section, please contact our office at: 508 758-9055, or by email at office@wanderer.com.

to participate who is not yet a member can join online any time at marionartcenter.org/join. More information can be found at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit.

Friends of the Mattapoisett Library

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library's recent Annual Jewelry and Accessory sale was a tremendous success thanks to the community's support and generosity.

Thank you to all who donated items, volunteered their time, and made purchases at this year's jewelry sale; the 2nd Silent Auction was particularly successful. 100% of the sale proceeds will support library programs for children, teens, and adults, including the purchase of museum, zoo, and park passes.

In preparation for next December's sale, the Friends will continue to accept new and gently used donations of jewelry and fashion accessories such as scarves, gloves, purses, hats, sunglasses, wallets, and keychains throughout the upcoming year. Please drop off your donations at the Mattapoisett Library circulation desk. Everyone's generosity supports the library.

Again, thank you. We hope to see you in January at our next Used Book Sale on Saturday, **January 10**, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Upcoming Events at the Elizabeth Taber Library

The Library will be closed Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26 in celebration of Christmas. The library will reopen on Saturday, December 27.

The library will be closing at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, December 31.

Ring in the New Year at our Noon Year's Eve Party. Kids of all ages and their caregivers can join us between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm noon on Wednesday, **December 31** to dance, snack, craft, and countdown to noon.

For more information on the Elizabeth Taber Library visit us at www.ElizabethTaberLibrary.org or email the library at ETLibrary@sailsinc.org. 8 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738. 508-748-1252.

From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society

By Connie Eshbach

Someone who will remain nameless once suggested that there wasn't enough Rochester history for all the articles I have written and maybe I was submitting them more than once. It was a joke, but I realized that unless you went to the museum and looked through all the file cabinets and books and boxes, you would have no idea of how much history and how many human- interest stories are stored there. I do occasionally revisit a topic when a new angle or new information comes to light.

However, there is one story I revisit every year (though always with a new article), and that is the story of the East Rochester Congregational Church's (our museum) organ. While the organ appears to be a pipe organ, the pipes are merely decorative. As we had pointed out in our 2024 exhibit, there was a time when if you wanted music in your home, you either had to make it yourself or invite musicians to your home.

During the 1800's to the early 1900's, it became popular, for people who could afford it, to have an organ in their home. Very wealthy people like Henry Flagler, one of the tycoons in the same era as Fairhaven's Henry Huddleston Rogers, had music rooms. Flagler's was ballroom-sized with a soaring ceiling and a huge pipe organ that had once graced a European cathedral.

Other less wealthy people of means needed a smaller style organ for their music rooms. This brings us to the Vocalion organ. The organ (pictured here) here in our museum was once in the home on the Hathaway Estate in Wareham and was donated to the East Rochester Church by a Mrs. Stone in 1932.

Now, to the organ itself. As I said, at first glance, it looks like a pipe organ, but is an American Reed Organ built in 1895 by Mason & Risch, formally, the Hamilton Vocalion Organ Mfg. Co. of Worcester, MA. The decorative pipes are a hand-painted wooden facade. The stenciled nameboard says, " Vocalion". To quote Joe

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TriTown Happenings

The Marion Village Christmas Stroll was this past cold and snowy Sunday. Santa and Ms. Clause arrived by their usual boat, though the cold and the wind sure made it look difficult to dock. Excited kids hurled snowballs all around (and at each other) as they waited for St. Nick. Photos by Sam Bishop

Photo of the Bay from the Mattapoisett Bike Trail.
Photo by Ruth A Griffin

These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com

Sloane, an antique organ expert, " Vocalion was the name given to a unique keyboard musical instrument conceived and marketed by its inventor to exemplify the pinnacle of reed organ building in the late 19th century.

Reed organs produce music through suction, but Vocalions are different from other reed organs. It makes music using pressure in a way that mimics the human throat. Going with that analogy, the organ has a number of "throats" that range in size giving it a much greater capacity than that of the human lung. When played, air passes from a wind chest (on a par with the human lung) through the "throats" making the reeds vibrate. Therefore, the mechanical action of the organ is designed to play its vibrating brass reeds rather than pipes.

In ads for Vocalion organs, it's stated that they had everything found in a pipe organ and could produce tones as beautiful as the finest pipe organs. The Vocalion however, was less expensive and would fit more easily into a large, but not palatial home or church.

Vocalion organs have become rare. Many older churches have either taken them apart and put them in storage or sold them. We feel very fortunate to have ours as part of our museum. Like anything over 100 yrs. old, it has its issues, but it still produces some special music. We have been told that it actually needs to be played more, so if there's any person or group interested in playing our organ, you can get in touch with us at 617-750-2818.

Tremont Advent Christian Camp Meeting Association

The Marion Historical Commission is pleased to announce that the Tremont Advent Christian Camp Meeting Association property on Oakdale Avenue has received a Determination of Eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This preliminary approval was made recently by the Massachusetts Historical Commission following a unanimous vote of support by the Tremont Association Board of Directors.

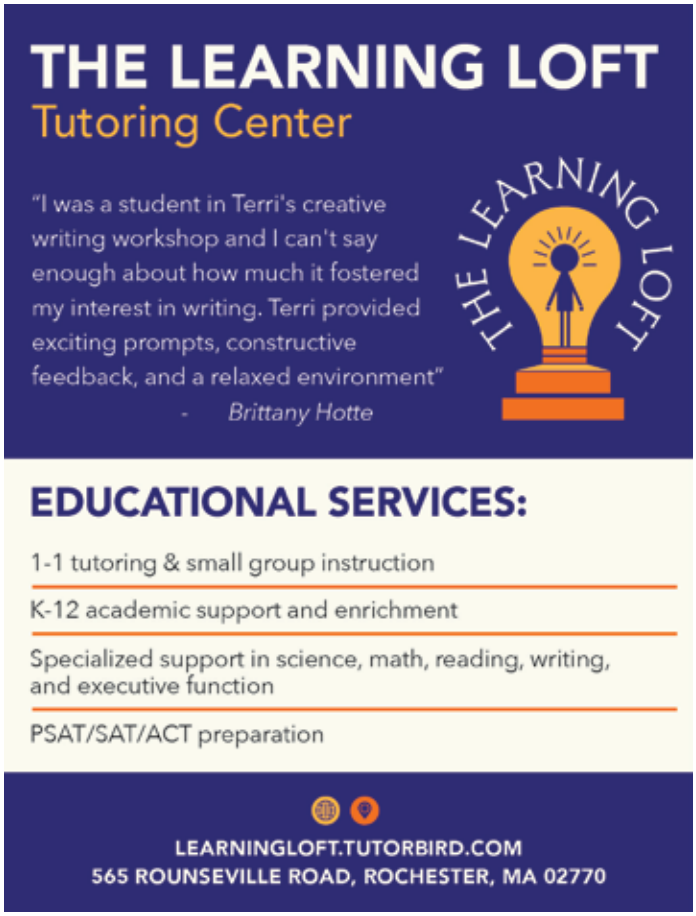
The origins of this particular camp meeting lie in the 1860s in the Tremont section of Wareham.

By the mid-19th century seasonal revival camp meetings had become a common fixture in the landscape of America. Located in the countryside and often on bodies of water, campgrounds included permanent buildings for common use such as dormitories, kitchens, dining halls, and assembly rooms, and eventually individual residential cottages. These revival meetings featured charismatic speakers and were punctuated with enthusiastic hymn singing. Plentiful food and a wide range of recreational activities were also mainstay aspects of camp meeting life. Camp meetings were described by Transcendentalist philosopher and poet Henry David

Thoreau as "a singular combination of a prayer-meeting and a picnic." They reached their greatest popularity between the Civil War and World War I.

When the Wareham camp was completely destroyed in a fire on March 31, 1905, they chose the property on Hammett's Cove. The first Marion Campmeeting was held here July 25-August 6, 1905.

The first buildings were constructed between 1906 and 1911, and most of the extant camp buildings were erected by the mid-1920s. Hurricanes in 1938, 1954, and 1991, and a windstorm in 1944 had various effects on the campground, including necessitating the relocation several of the cottages, including 23 and 35 Oakdale Ave. The dining hall was destroyed in the 1954 hurricane; its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Movie Review

Open Wound

By Rob Gonsalves
www.robsmovievault.com

***Die My Love*. Starring Jennifer Lawrence and Robert Pattinson. Directed by Lynne Ramsay. Running time: 118 minutes. MPAA rating: R. Now available on streaming home media.**

Now that David Lynch is almost a year gone, Lynne Ramsay might be the top living filmmaker who can make nightmarish movies without necessarily making "horror movies." Something like Ramsay's 2011 *We Need to Talk About Kevin* is in one way a horror movie, but it's so much else, dominantly a tone poem *about* horror — the emotion as it is most commonly experienced, not due to a stalker with a knife but due to one's own misbehaving brain chemicals. Which brings us to *Die My Love*, only Ramsay's fifth feature film in 26 years. On the surface, it would seem to be a grim drama about a woman in the throes of severe postpartum depression, but it, too, works on more levels than one.

After this film and *mother!*, I don't know how such an amiable and sanely funny presence as Jennifer Lawrence can give herself so completely over to dark fantasias of madness and control — what dark spaces in herself she needs to access. Lawrence stars in *Die My Love* as Grace, who moves into a remote, somewhat run-down house with her partner Jackson (Robert Pattinson). They have a baby son, and soon after, Grace seems to dissociate from everything — her home, her lover, herself. She becomes unreadably vicious; she frightens Jackson, and she frightens us. We sense Grace is merely blasting Jackson with the contempt she feels for herself. Does he deserve it? He's shown dallying with a waitress, but Ramsay's style is so oblique, as if filmed through a veil of dread, we're not sure when we're watching objective reality and when we're seeing Grace's version.

Ramsay's films often feel like raw wounds, or deep bruises. They're not "fun," nor are they designed to be. But if you're attuned to Ramsay's way of seeing and showing, you may find yourself responding gratefully to her free and pure use of cinema to bring us into contact with extreme states of feeling. Ramsay doesn't ignore Jackson's view, either — we feel his fear and frustration. And after a scene involving a household pet, Grace crosses a line past which some won't be able to follow her. Somehow, Lawrence keeps us with Grace anyway, keeps us hooked into Grace's suffocating feelings of being abandoned, unwanted, left alone to herself. What she does to a being in pain one night out in the yard is possibly what she wishes someone would do to (or for) her.

Even when Grace becomes violent, and heedless of the damage she does to her own body, we don't fear for what she might do to the baby. That seems to be the sole area where she still has some of her marbles: this infant loves and needs her, and she can't betray that either by hurting the baby or by other means. At one point, Jackson has reached his limit, and brings Grace to the mental ward of a hospital. What happens after that has the bleakness of reality and the sting of psychodramatic poetry like *A Woman Under the Influence*. Everyone loves Grace and wants her to be well. Grace doesn't love Grace and isn't sure what being well even is. A run of thoughts can wipe out months of progress.

Die My Love is art, so its ending is very much up for discussion. Is it real, metaphorical, delusion? Parts of all three? I confess I wanted a different climax, but that wouldn't be the ending of the story Ramsay is telling. A certain kind of audience will react with hostility to it, the way they also rejected the denouement of *mother!* — Jennifer Lawrence has theorized that audiences got sick of her persona in interviews, but I wonder if they just didn't feel secure with her after *mother!* I should also mention the supporting cast here includes Sissy Spacek and Nick Nolte (as Jackson's parents), both of whom are wonderful; these folks seem to intuit that Grace is heading for trouble without understanding it. (Their own family has a lurid suicide in its recent past, and Spacek's character seems conversant with the terrors that can afflict new mothers. She just might not get that for Grace it's possibly a mix of bad experience and bad chemicals.) The movie is valuable to me, but if it doesn't sound worthwhile to you, I'm not about to try convincing you otherwise. You know whether you're up for this.

successor was destroyed in 2015 and was replaced in 2019. Many of the cottages remain in the families of those who constructed them.

The MHC noted that the property is eligible for the National Register at the local and possibly state levels in the area of Religion for its association with the Protestant Camp Meeting Movement, and also derives its primary architectural and historical importance as a significant and distinguishable entity, even while its components lack individual distinction.

With this eligibility opinion, the preparation of a National Register nomination will now commence. The Marion Historical Commission has contracted with preservation consultant, Eric Dray, to complete the nomination. The project is being funded with Community Preservation funds. Submission of the final nomination papers is anticipated for summer, 2026, after which the MHC submits it to the National Park Service for final approval.

Open Table Is Back

Mattapoisett Congregational Church is very excited to announce that Open Table is back with 3 dinners planned for **January 9, February 27,** and **March 13** (weather permitting), so be sure to mark your calendar now. The OT crew hopes to see you on January 9 for the first of 3 delicious meals served in Reynard Hall at Mattapoisett Congregational Church, 27 Church Street, Mattapoisett. There is no charge, although donations are gratefully accepted. Doors open at 4:30 pm and supper will be served at 5:00 pm. Invite a friend or neighbor. All are welcome.

Local Teens Request Warm Weather Donations for Veterans

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) requests your help collecting NEW hats, gloves, and scarves through **January 11**.

TAB recognizes that winter can be especially difficult for veterans, so our members have teamed up with The Veterans Transition House in New Bedford to help. Your donations of NEW hats, gloves, and scarves will offer much-needed warmth and comfort to those who've served our country. Please drop off your contributions in the boxes at the Mattapoisett Library, 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett by January 11.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Lawrence, Adult Services Librarian, at ALawrence@sailsinc.org or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Thank you for your support and compassion for our veterans. The Teen Advisory Board and The Veterans Transition House truly appreciate your kindness.

Tri-town Police Logs

MARION
Log highlights Dec 7 – Dec 13
- Olde Meadow Rd – Animal complaint
- Point Rd – Officer wanted
- County Rd – Follow up investigation
- Cranberry Way – General service
- Village Dr – Officer wanted
- Spring St – Animal complaint
- County Rd – Follow up investigation
- Mill St – MV collision
- Holmes St – EMS/medical
- Mill St - Transport
- River Rd – EMS/medical
- Olde Farm Rd – Paper service/citation
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Village Dr – Paper service
- Converse Rd – EMS/medical
- Spinnaker Ln – Health/welfare
- Front St – Animal complaint
- River Rd – Suspicious activity
- Wareham Rd – Road hazard
- Village Dr – Noise complaint
- Huckleberry Way – Follow up
- Wareham Rd – Emergency services
- Old Knoll Rd – Lost property
- Front St – Officer wanted
- Olde Logging Rd – EMS/medical
- Front St – Follow up investigation
- Spring St – EMS/medical
- Spring St – EMS/medical
- Island Wharf Rd – MV collision

MATTAPOISETT
Log highlights Dec 7 – Dec 13
- Wolf Island Rd – General service
- Fairhaven Rd – MV violations
- North St – General service
- Reservation Rd – Suspicious MV
- River Bend Ln – Follow up
- Oakland Ter – Animal control
- Main St – Ambulance request
- North St - Complaint
- Barlow Ln - Disturbance
- North St – MV crash
- County Rd – Health/welfare
- Tara Rd – Stolen property
- Eldorado Dr – MV crash
- County Rd – Lost property
- Island View Ave - Complaint
- Shagbark Cir – General service
- Homestead Ct – Health/welfare
- Fairhaven Rd – Assist other agency
- North St – Domestic disturbance
- Fairhaven Rd – Animal inspection
- Marion Rd – MV crash
- Harbor Nk Rd – MV violations
- Crystal Spring Rd - Vandalism
- Hitching Post Rd – General service
- Barstow St – 911 call
- Upland Way – Assist other agency
- Park St – 911 call
- Fairhaven Rd – MV crash
- Bowman Rd – Suspicious persons

ROCHESTER
Log highlights Dec 7 – Dec 13
- Dexter Ln – Well-being check
- Woodland Rd – Well-being check
- Walnut Plain Rd – Suspicious activity
- Rounseville Rd – Animal control
- Dexter Ln – Follow up
- Marys Pond Rd – MV collision
- Katlyn Cir – Detector issue
- Marion Rd – MV stop/citation
- Haskell Ridge Rd – Burglar alarm
- Hartley Rd – Animal control
- Robinson Rd – Animal control
- Dexter Ln – Firearms licensing
- New Bedford Rd – Inside gas leak
- New Bedford Rd – Erratic MV
- Forbes Rd – Assist other agency
- Walnut Plain Rd – Suspicious activity
- Cranberry Hwy – 91 all
- Pierce St – Medical alarm
- Negus Way – 911 call
- Braley Hill Rd – General service
- High St – MV collision
- Braley Hill Rd – MV collision
- Neck Rd – 911 call
- New Bedford Rd – Road hazard
- Marion Rd – MV stop/citation
- Pine St – Well-being check
- Pine St – Animal control
- Marys Pond Rd – Road hazard
- High St – Well-being check

For a full PDF of the three towns' police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.

Regional Lunch Menus

COASTLINE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM
Monday, Dec 22: Teriyaki shrimp, white rice, edamame, corn & red peppers, cornbread loaf, banana
Tuesday, Dec 23: Stewed tomato, chicken thigh, rice pilaf, brussels sprouts, wheat roll, oatmeal cookie
Wednesday, Dec 24: Pot roast w/gravy, baked sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, cornbread loaf, apple
Thursday, Dec 25: No meals served
Friday, Dec 26: No meals served

CENTER SCHOOL
Monday, Dec 22: Taco nacho platter, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar
Tuesday, Dec 23: Crispy chicken sandwich, oven baked French fries, carrots
Wednesday, Dec 24: No school
Thursday, Dec 25: No school
Friday, Dec 26: No school

OLD HAMMONDTOWN
Monday, Dec 22: Taco nacho platter, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar
Tuesday, Dec 23: Crispy chicken sandwich, oven baked French fries, carrots
Wednesday, Dec 24: No school
Thursday, Dec 25: No school
Friday, Dec 26: No school

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH
Monday, Dec 22: Taco nacho platter, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar
Tuesday, Dec 23: Early release – no lunch served
Wednesday, Dec 24: No school
Thursday, Dec 25: No school
Friday, Dec 26: No school

ROCHESTER MEMORIAL
Monday, Dec 22: Taco nacho platter, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar
Tuesday, Dec 23: Crispy chicken sandwich, oven baked French fries, carrots
Wednesday, Dec 24: No school
Thursday, Dec 25: No school
Friday, Dec 26: No school

SIPPICAN SCHOOL
Monday, Dec 22: Taco nacho platter, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar
Tuesday, Dec 23: Crispy chicken sandwich, oven baked French fries, carrots
Wednesday, Dec 24: No school
Thursday, Dec 25: No school
Friday, Dec 26: No school

OLD COLONY REGIONAL
Monday, Dec 22: No school
Tuesday, Dec 23: No school
Wednesday, Dec 24: No school
Thursday, Dec 25: No school
Friday, Dec 26: No school

Marion Art Center Auditions

The MAC is auditioning actors for the comedy, The 39 Steps, adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan. The play will be directed by John Heavey. The auditions will be held at the MAC's Anne Braitmayer Webb Theater located at 80 Pleasant St., Marion, MA on Saturday, **January 3** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and on Sunday, **January 4** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. There are nine performance dates: March 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22. Evening shows are at 7:30 pm, and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 pm.

The 39 Steps is a fast-paced, slapstick comedy thriller where an ordinary man, Richard Hannay, is framed for murder and must go on the run to stop a spy ring from stealing vital British military secrets. The humor derives from the entire story being performed by a small cast who play over 150 characters, often making rapid costume and character changes. One actor plays the hero, Richard Hannay; an actress plays the three women with whom he has romantic entanglements; other actors play every other character in the show, each occasionally playing multiple characters at once. Thus, Alfred Hitchcock film's serious spy story is given a comedic, zany twist.

Although The 39 Steps was originally produced with just four actors, the MAC production's casting will be flexible with regard to gender and doubling or even tripling of roles. The two exceptions are that Hannay will be played by one man throughout and Pamela and Annabella will be played by a single woman. Auditions will be cold readings from selected scenes of the script. In casting we are looking for versatile performers with a rich imagination who can make bold, physical choices. Find the full character list, along with more information, at marionartcenter.org/auditions.

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Ramps For The Holidays

Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity (BBAHFH) is seeking metal wheelchair ramp donations

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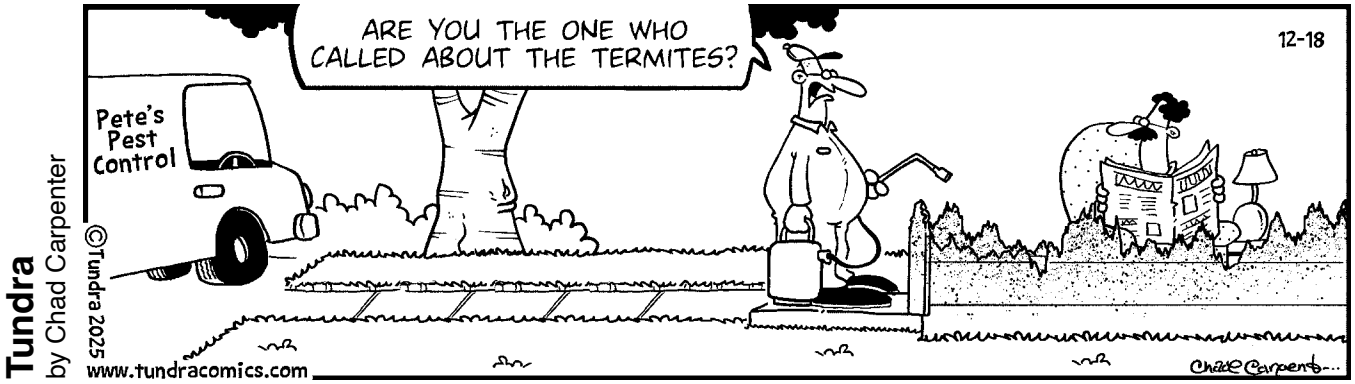
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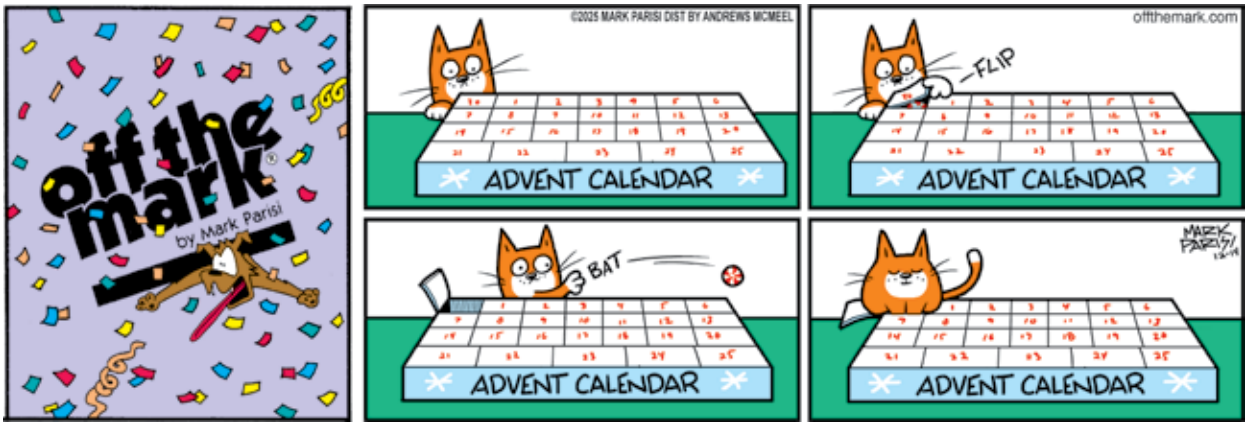
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FLIP
BAT
ADVENT CALENDAR

Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phipps
CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK!
OH, BARB, DID YOU ALL HEAR ABOUT HELEN'S DAUGHTER? I MEAN, WHAT A SCANDAL!
EXCUSE ME, I'M HELEN!
OK, THAT'S IT. WE ALL NEED TO START WEARING NAME TAGS.

and support for their Ramp Donation Program. According to Executive Director Christine Lacourse, "We have currently helped 26 families with ramps this year with the community's support. We have three more families that need our help before the end of the year, but we are out of inventory. We need to raise $10,000 to buy 3 (or more) used ramps for Joanne, Nancy, and Lorraine, so that we can help change their world, and we are hoping for strong year-end support. Imagine, each tax-deductible gift will give someone the ability to stay or return home for the holidays."

"There are many reasons why someone might need a ramp, from a simple broken leg to a chronic disease like multiple sclerosis to cancer," explained Lacourse. "Many of our ramp recipients have been healthy all their lives but now in their senior years, need a walker, or are in a wheelchair. What a difference a ramp makes for an individual and their family. It literally gives someone freedom, independence, and the ability to Age-in-Place."

Ramp recipients have ranged in age from teenagers to those in their nineties. As one recipient's daughter enthused after her mother in her eighties got a ramp, "We are absolutely thrilled.... The ramp was installed today and my mother had a doctor's appointment at 2:30 and she did not have to hold on for dear life going down the stairs, while 10-out-of-10 pain went down her hip. She just used her cane and held the railing and smoothly went down the ramp. And my Dad's hip is not in excruciating pain from going down and up the stairs. And the men who came and installed it were wonderful."

According to Janice, another recent ramp recipient who is 86 years old, "It made me feel alive. Really and truly. I don't have to lift my legs that I can't lift. I used to have to cling to the rail to get up, then lift my legs three times because I had three big steps, and now I can run up it. A flock of angels put it up. All gentlemen and very nice."

In 2024, BBAHFH formally introduced the Ramp Donation program giving low-income homeowners the accessibility they need to remain safe in their homes. Through ramp donations and purchases, BBAHFH tries to maintain an inventory available that can be loaned out and installed by volunteers when needed by a family, but this can be difficult as ramps are expensive, and the need is great. BBAHFH is grateful for its partners, including the families who have donated ramps to be reused, supporting foundations in the region, and Oakley Home Access for making ramps available on a discounted basis.

When a family no longer requires the ramp, it is picked up by BBAHFH and then loaned to another low-income family in need. The Ramp Donation program helps those with existing accessibility issues, temporary injuries, or those who are checking out of a rehabilitation facility with hopes of returning home.

BBAHFH is running this program throughout Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, Wareham, and Westport, and ramps are installed at no cost for families. This project is funded in part by grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Executive Office of Aging & Independence and Coastline Elderly Services, the Area Agency on Aging, through Federal Title-III funds.

For more information on BBAHFH's Ramp Donation program, contact BuzzardsBayAreaHabitat@yahoo.com, or call 508-758-4517. Tax-deductible donations to support the program may be made at www.BuzzardsBayHabitat.org or by sending a check to BBAHFH, P.O. Box 1584, Mattapoisett, MA 02739, and please note "Ramps for the Holidays."

Tinkhamtown Chapel Christmas Sing

The annual Tinkhamtown Chapel Christmas Sing-along will take place on Saturday, **December 20** at 5:00 pm at the Chapel on the corner of Acushnet Road and Tinkham Lane. Join your friends and neighbors as we sing

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Super Crossword

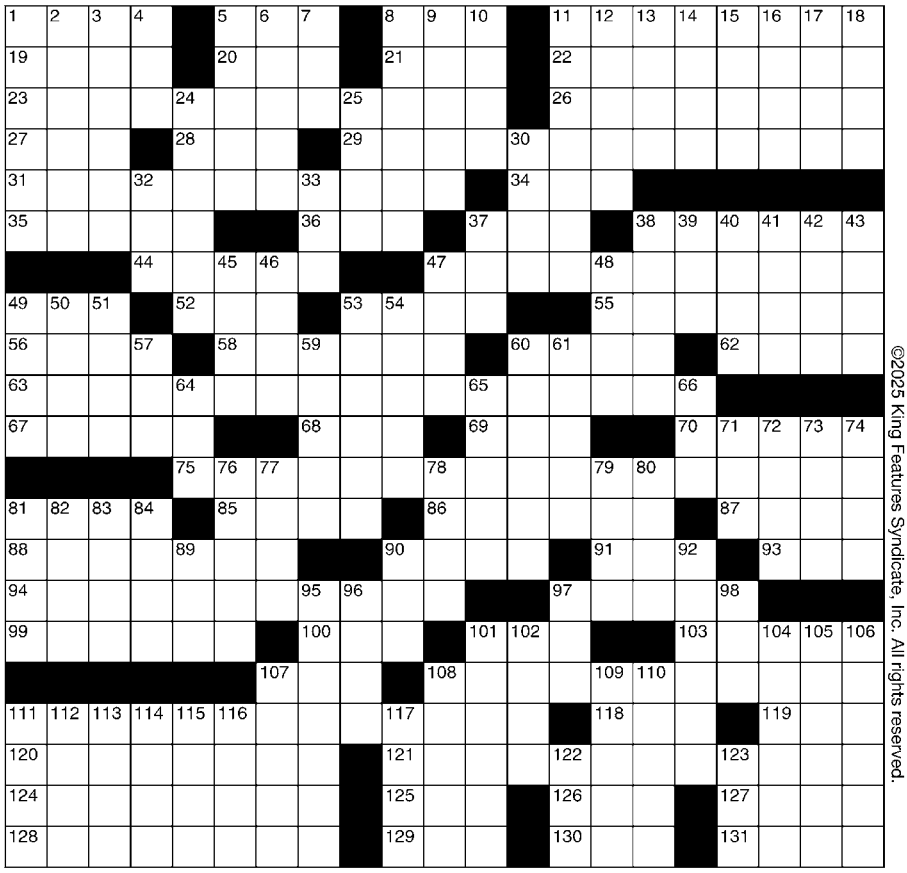
MECHANICS OF SOLVING

ACROSS

1 Has a snooze
5 Workout unit
8 Anti-DUI ad, maybe
11 "The Maltese Falcon" hero
19 Conical-bore woodwind
20 Log chopper
21 Possess
22 Former airline to Rome
23 Composer of the 1938 ballet "The Incredible Flutist"
26 Squirrel-sized monkeys
27 Super-cold
28 Podded plant
29 What a dieter may reduce
31 Pressure-reducing elastic stockings
34 Mork's home planet
35 German city
36 Ordinal suffix
37 Yvette's "yes"
38 "Gremlins" actress Cates
44 Folk great Bob
47 Edison's phonograph medium
49 Writer Rand
52 Prefix with treat or trust
53 Bird bill
55 Booting out
56 Horn honk
58 Cleans up, as code
60 Hit PC game of the 1990s
62 Director Preminger
63 Heater along the bottom of a wall
67 Houston ballplayer
68 Ending for Gator
69 CIO partner
70 Greek vowels
75 Bracing wear for a body-builder
81 Dog in "The Thin Man"
85 "Little" actress Rae
86 Mrs. with a famous cow
87 "500" auto race
88 Hone
90 William of "Hopalong Cassidy"
91 Its cap. is Buenos Aires
93 Levy
94 Video surveillance device, briefly
97 Of — (somewhat)
99 Bit of skin art
100 Timid
101 Cable TV channel for buying goods
103 Flee to wed
107 "I solved it!"
108 Type of needle-free syringe
111 ThinkPad power source, e.g.
118 Cl- or Na+
119 Gold, to Luisa
120 Zesty potato chip go-with
121 Where nine key words in this puzzle can be found
124 Word after poet or Nobel
125 LA-to-MI dir.
126 Tea vessel
127 Swing about
128 Evaluated
129 Lobed thing
130 Turndowns
131 Actress Harper

DOWN

1 Not at all, quaintly
2 Ancient calculator
3 Corals, e.g.
4 Workout unit
5 Less ordinary
6 Brit living in America, e.g.
7 Architect I.M.
8 Soil-enriching compound
9 Very muscular, in modern lingo
10 Year, to Nero
11 Like "Weekend Update" reports
12 "Alas and —"
13 "Bosch" actress Rogers
14 Lee of Marvel
15 Component
16 Et — (plus others)
17 Rinky- —
18 Relieve
24 Person for whom a thing is named
25 Kilt wearer
30 Butter-and-flour mixture
32 Crosswalk user, for short
33 Coop female
37 Tree of Illinois
38 Largest dwarf planet
39 — and hers
40 Aware of
41 Revise text
42 Crooked
43 Therefore
45 Venice beach resort
46 Totally lost
47 "That — close call!"
48 Former Royals manager Ned
49 "Mamma Mia" group
50 In-favor votes
51 Chick's home
53 Indian religion founder
54 White heron
57 For each
59 Talks big
60 Ticked off
61 Crimean resort port
64 Curtsy, e.g.
65 How often the sun rises
66 Fix, as a fight
71 Osaka sash
72 Festival shelter
73 Actor Alan
74 River of myth
76 "Old MacDonald" letters
77 Lacks entity
78 Impend, as a deadline
79 Investments for later yrs.
80 Songwriter Laura
81 Helper: Abbr.
82 Old New York ballpark
83 Diplomacy
84 In — (mired)
89 Expert
90 Large inlet
92 Actor Lorne
95 Like a slingshot or a wishbone
96 Schmooze
97 Singer DiFranco
98 Pampering, for short
101 Cowboy doing a roundup, say
102 Eye affliction
104 Peter of "Becket"
105 Spongelike
106 Wears away
107 Grab — (eat fast)
108 Actress Elfman
109 Hot rod fuel
110 Long — (winter undies)
111 Singer Falana
112 Santa — (hot winds)
113 Name of 12 popes
114 Ripped
115 Small bills
116 Sidewalk smooches, e.g., for short
117 Melody
122 Leg it
123 Prez after FDR



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SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Handle that potentially awkward situation by warming up your confidence reserves and letting it radiate freely. Also, expect an old friend to contact you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's not too early for the practical Bovine to begin planning possible New Year workplace changes. A recent contact can offer some interesting insights.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A request for an unusual favor should be carefully checked out. Also check the motives behind it. Your generosity should be respected, not exploited.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Party time beckons, but for some Moon Children, so do some workplace challenges. Deal with the second first, then you'll be free to enjoy the fun time.

LEO (July 23-August 22) A warm response to an earlier request might be a positive indicator of what's ahead. Meanwhile, Cupid could pay a surprise visit to single LEOs looking for love.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) How you respond to a proposed change in a project could affect your situation. Be prepared to show how well you would be able to deal with it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The revelation of a secret could cause some changes in how to deal with a workplace matter. It very likely also validates a position you have long held.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An attempt to get too personal could upset the very private SCORPIO. Make it clear that there's a line no one crosses without your permission.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The savvy Sagittarian might be able to keep a family disagreement from spilling over by getting everyone involved to talk things out.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be careful not to push people too hard to meet your ideas of what holiday preparations should be. Best to make it a cooperative, not a coerced, effort.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An unexpected request could make you rethink a position you've had for a long time. Meanwhile, plan a family get-together for the weekend.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Someone might find that it was a fluke to try to use your sympathetic nature to get you to accept a situation you're not comfortable with. Good for you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You like challenges that are both mental and physical, and you enjoy always beating your personal best.

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the old favorites under the light of kerosene lamps and accompanied by an antique pump organ. Refreshments will be served in the Sewing Circle Building next door. If anyone would like to perform a solo instrumental or vocal selection, or if you have any questions, please contact Gail Roberts at 508-758-9559 or by emailing peggsmom@gmail.com.

If you can't attend on December 20, please join us at the Mattapoisett Museum, 5 Church Street, on Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 pm for a Christmas carol sing-along, plus a visit from Santa.

North Rochester Congregational Church Lessons & Carols

The North Rochester Congregational Church, 247 North Avenue in Rochester, will be having its Lessons & Carols service on Sunday, **December 21** at 6:00 pm. Paul Sardinha, their longtime organist, will provide the music. Food and fellowship will follow the service. Everyone is welcome.

Small Works + Holiday Shop

The Marion Art Center announces its annual exhibit, Small Works + Holiday Shop. The show runs through **December 19**.

The exhibit will feature original works of art all under fourteen inches, plus a curated selection of handmade goods such as jewelry, textiles, ceramics, woodworks, gifts, and more. Shop for yourself or find the perfect gifts for others. All pieces may be removed from the galleries upon purchase for this cash and carry show. Can't decide? We have gift certificates available. Learn more at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit.

Bulldog Pride Alumni Association Grant Program

The Bulldog Pride Alumni Association (BPAA) is pleased to announce the launch of its Grant Program for the 2025–2026 academic year, supporting creative and impactful initiatives at Old Rochester Regional Junior High School (ORRJHS) and Old Rochester Regional High School (ORRHS).

The program is open to students, teachers, and current staff of ORR schools. Applicants must complete the digital application as directed and are kindly asked to inform their school principal of the proposed project prior to submission.

BPAA grants aim to fund programs that enhance the educational experience during the current school year. Disbursements for equipment and services will begin on February 2, while reimbursements for materials and supplies must be submitted no later than June.

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LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF MARION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE #838

The Marion Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 8, 2026 in the conference room of the Marion Police Station, 550 Mill Street, on the application of William F. and Dina J. Quinlan, for a Variance under section 230-5.1 of the zoning by-law to construct a single family dwelling on a lot which is short the minimum lot area as outlined in Table A in said section of the by-laws.

The property, located on Briggs Terrace, is further identified on Assessors' Plan 23 as Lot 9.
Cynthia Callow, Chairperson 12/11, 12/18

TOWN OF MARION
SELECT BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Application - Change of Category
Wine & Malt License to All Alcohol Off Premise License
C & J SULL LLC, d/b/a J. Sull Wine
119 Wareham Road, Unit 105, Marion, MA

The Marion Select Board, acting as the Local Licensing Authority, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Marion Police Department Conference Room, 550 Mill Street, on the application of C & J SULL LLC, d/b/a J. Sull Wine for the change of category from a retail package goods license for the sale of wine and malt beverages to a retail package good license for the sale of all alcohol beverages.
Randy L. Parker, Chair 12/11, 12/18

TOWN OF MARION
SELECT BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marion Select Board, acting as the Local Licensing Authority, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:20pm in the Marion Police Department Conference Room, 550 Mill Street, Marion, on the application of Magan Corp., d/b/a Light House, for a retail package goods license for the sale of all alcohol beverages.
Randy L. Parker, Chair 12/11, 12/18

TOWN OF MARION
SELECT BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Application for Transfer of All-Alcohol Restaurant License

The Marion Select Board, acting as local licensing authority, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:40pm in the Marion Police Department Conference Room, 550 Mill Street, Marion, to consider the application of SGT Hospitality, d/b/a The Atlantic Bistro, 167 Spring Street, for the transfer of an all-alcohol restaurant license.
Randy L. Parker, Chair 12/18, 12/25

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
SELECT BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Monday, December 29th, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Rochester Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way, the Rochester Select Board, acting as the licensing authority, will conduct a public hearing for the application of Bristol Asphalt Inc. (K Highway Corp.) for a Flammable Fluid License to store Liquid Asphalt in an amount in excess of 33,000 gallons in two (2) 15,000 gallon tanks, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148, Section 13 and 527 CMR 1.12.8.50.4 on real property located at 99 Kings Highway (previously 85 Kings Highway), Rochester, Massachusetts, Rochester Assessors Map 17, Lot 58-0.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88976725945
Meeting ID: 889 7672 5945
One tap mobile
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+13017158592, 88976725945# US (Washington DC)
Join instructions
https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/88976725945/invitations?signature=59NaEzuWeR8n2-vAmNf-pZ6hLMHqR3CNavJIz51ARS1E 12/18

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1230

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of Karl Ferreira, for property located at 522 Walnut Plain Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 14, Lot 6, who is seeking a Variance for an accessory structure over 1,000 sq. ft. for a proposed detached garage, pursuant to Chapter 20.40, Section E.2., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.

The public hearing will be on Thursday, January 8th, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way in Rochester, MA.
Donald Spirlet, Chairman 12/18, 12/25

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1231

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of Francis & Jennifer Jones, for property located at 309 Neck Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 40, Lot 1A, who are seeking a Special Permit to allow for the construction of a two-family residence on the property, pursuant to Chapter 20.40, Section F.6., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.

The public hearing will be on Thursday, January 8th, 2026, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way in Rochester, MA.
Donald Spirlet, Chairman 12/18, 12/25

---

off the mark by Mark Parisi

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis

HEY, GOAT, HAVE YOU MET 'SEWER GUY'?
WHAT'S HE DOING DOWN THERE?
I'M WAITING OUT THIS WHOLE ERA.
HAVE ROOM FOR ONE MORE?!
YOU SCARED HIM BACK INTO HIS HOLE.
instagram.com/stephanpastis
twitter.com/stephanpastis
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12/17

Applicants may indicate if their proposal is part of a multi-year project. Upon successful completion of the first year's goals, they may apply for an additional grant for the 2026–2027 school year. The BPAA Grants Committee will evaluate these applications based on the merits of the completed project.

For the 2025–2026 cycle, the BPAA is committing $3,000 to support selected projects through this grant program.

Application Deadline: All applications must be submitted by Monday, December 22 at 11:59 pm.

To apply, visit: www.orralumni.org/apply-for-a-grant.

For questions or more information, please contact the BPAA Grants Committee via the website.

MWC Great Decisions Discussion Group

Do you have plans on Wednesday afternoons this winter? Get out of the house and join a thoughtful group of tri-town residents who seek to learn more about the world we live in. The Mattapoisett Woman's Club is offering the Great Decisions Program, a weekly in-person gathering where local residents meet to discuss foreign policy topics in an informal atmosphere. Moderators take turns launching the discussion which often includes guest speakers or videos to kick it off. Topic materials are provided in advance by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. The conversation is friendly and welcoming of all perspectives. We offer light refreshments, coffee and tea. You don't have to be a foreign policy expert to participate–just someone who wants to become an informed global citizen.

Great Decisions meets Wednesdays from **January 14** through **March 4** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the downstairs Community Room at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow Street.

Registration is limited to 30 people and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is open to all members of the Mattapoisett community and surrounding towns.

To register please submit your information using the following link: forms.gle/836hn9gX8m6wKyLu9 and send a check made out to the Mattapoisett Woman's Club for $40.00 to cover text and expenses. If two registrants are sharing one book the price is $50.00. If you prefer to mail in your registration, please include your name, address, email address and phone number on a piece of paper and include it with your check and mail it to: Mattapoisett Woman's Club, Box 1444 Mattapoisett MA 02739, Attn: Treasurer (memo on check Great Decisions).

If you have any questions, please email: mfpl@sailsinc.org.

Abigail Adams Returns

Abigail Adams, considered by many to be one of the founders of the United States, will be brought to life on **April 12** by Sheryl Faye, the actress renowned for her dramatic portrayals of historic women. This important fundraising presentation, in honor of our nation's sesquicentennial, is sponsored by the Friends of the Elizabeth Taber Library of Marion as the featured event at their annual spring Tea at the Marion Music Hall. To further the festive celebration there will be prizes given for most creative hat, the most patriotic outfit (for man or woman), as well as a Revolutionary trivia contest. Details will be forthcoming.

Marion Natural History Museum Afterschool Programs

Annual holiday party - **December 17:** Enjoy relaxing and getting creative with friends at our annual holiday party. Every year we work with natural and recycled materials to design new works of art for gift giving and decoration. Snacks and drinks are provided. Let's have some fun creating new works of art with our friends.

All programs start at 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Price is $8.00/each members, $10.00/each non-members. Location is at the museum, 8 Spring Street, Marion, MA, second

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TRIVIA TEST
By Fifi Rodriguez
---
1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
2. HISTORY: Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?
3. MOVIES: Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?
4. MUSIC: Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?
5. ANATOMY: What's another name for the patella?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Chile?
7. FOOD & DRINK: Who perfected the Champagne method?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the national flowers of Japan?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
10. SCIENCE: Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

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Answers
1. Duke.
2. The Ming dynasty.
3. "Holes."
4. "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel.
5. Kneecap.
6. Santiago.
7. A Benedictine monk named Dom Perignon.
8. The cherry blossom and the chrysanthemum.
9. Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
10. Black, although red also can be hot in two-wire circuits.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The Mattapoisett Water-Sewer Department is seeking a highly organized and detail-oriented Administrative Assistant to support the Office Administrator and the Superintendent in the daily operations of the department. The ideal candidate will perform a wide range of administrative, office support, and records-management functions while providing excellent service to both internal and external customers.
Strong proficiency in Micorsoft Excel, Word, and Outlook.
Pay Range: $25.61 - $26.63 per hour
Schedule: Full-Time Union Position, 40 hours per week
Full job description can be found at Mattapoisett.gov
Applicants should send a resume and cover letter to cyork@mattapoisett.gov. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

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Weekly SUDOKU

6	8		3		1	7		5
					9		8	
						3	1	4
8		1	9					
	3					5	7	
	2	5	7		3	1	6	9
	4		2	3				7
3		7	1		5	8		
2			6	7	4	9		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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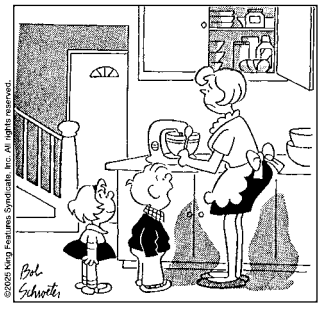

"Is this the night we give Daddy the big welcome-home routine, or is tomorrow _ _ _ _ _ _ _?"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

God
TIDEY ☐ ___ ___ ___ ☐

Fold
PLATE ___ ___ ___ ☐ ___

Rouse
WEAKO ☐ ___ ___ ___ ___

Hint
LIMPY ___ ___ ☐ ___ ☐

TODAY'S WORD

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

floor. Please register at the museum's website: www.marionmuseum.org.

Showstoppers Performance Troupe Seeking Local Talent

The Showstoppers community-service singing troupe is seeking talented youth for its 24th season. Boys and girls in grades 2 to 12 with singing ability are encouraged to apply.

Candidates are asked to submit 2 audition videos, one ballad and one upbeat song, for review. Call backs will be in person by appointment. Submissions do not need to be professionally done and can be recordings of solos in previous school productions. We are looking for kids with great potential.

Successful candidates will rehearse one day per week for 1 1/2 to 2 hours and will have the opportunity to perform with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra in December. They will also make an impact on their community by providing musical entertainment to the elderly at nursing homes, senior centers, and assisted living facilities throughout the Southcoast. The troupe also performs for the community at-large through a variety of private and public venues, including fairs, festivals, schools, malls, charitable fundraisers and other civic events.

Videos and/or video links should be sent to ShowstoppersME@gmail.com. Email for more information or call 508-758-4525.

Showstoppers Musical Entertainment is a subsidiary of Showstoppers Performing Arts, Inc., an all-volunteer non-profit organization. Follow them on Facebook to keep updated on their activities: www.facebook.com/showstopppers.us.

South Coast Chamber Music Series

The South Coast Chamber Music Series offers a Place to Pause. When life moves too fast and the world feels loud, we all need a place to pause. The South Coast Chamber Music Series returns this fall with five weekends of transformative musical storytelling designed to help you slow down, breathe deeper, and reconnect - with yourself, with others, and with the beauty around you.

From soulful string quartets to joyful piano quintets, this season invites you on a journey through soundscapes that stir the spirit and quiet the mind. Whether you're seeking inspiration, healing, or just a moment to exhale, there's space for you here.

Under the inspired direction of pianist and Artistic Director Janice Weber, the 2025–2026 season is a vibrant mix of the familiar and the unexpected - featuring beloved classics, boundary-pushing works by

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Tony Resendes 774-540-0846

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Just under an acre of open land available for rent-perfect if you need a place to park equipment, store tools, keep boats, or just have some extra space.

What it's good for:
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About the property:
*Almost 1 acre of open, flat land
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508-997-9259 office 774-263-4002 cell

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Classified Policy: All Classified Advertisements must be prepaid and can be placed at our office or on line at www.wanderer.com.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 10:00 am for Thursday's paper.

Classified Rates:
Classified Advertisements are $8.00 for 3 lines or less per week. Each additional line is $1.00 per week. There are an average of six words per line. Bold is an addition $1 per week.

Classified Guidelines:
*As a general rule, there are approximately six words per line in a standard Classified Ad.
*Blank lines cannot be used in Classified Advertisements.
*There is only upper case and lower case lettering.
*No graphics may be used in Classified Advertisements.
*Classified Ads cannot be placed on hold.
*Classified Ads cannot be taken over the phone.

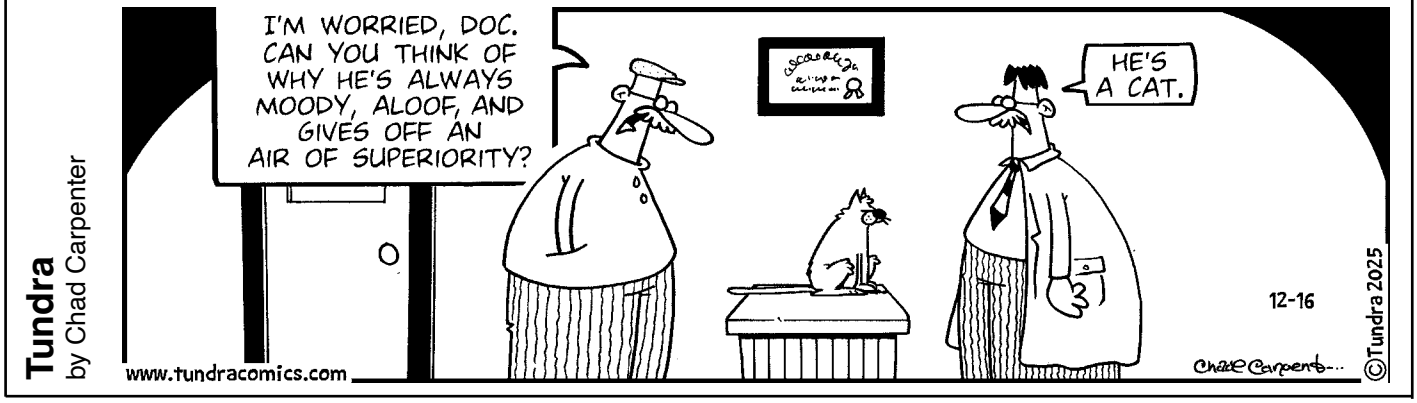
Mailing Classified Ads: Ads can be mailed with payment to P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Placing Classified Ads On-line: Ads can be placed on line at: www.wanderer.com

Dropping Off Classified Advertisements: Ads can be dropped by our office at 55 County Road in Mattapoisett, Monday, Thurs, Fri -9am to 3pm; Tuesday 9am to noon

Payment Policy: All sales final, we do not offer credits or refunds.

Legal Advertisements:
* Legal Ads are $1.00 per line, at a minimum of $25. per ad.


Tundra
by Chad Carpenter
I'M WORRIED, DOC. CAN YOU THINK OF WHY HE'S ALWAYS MOODY, ALOOF, AND GIVES OFF AN AIR OF SUPERIORITY?
HE'S A CAT.
12-16
www.tundracomics.com
©Tundra 2025

contemporary composers, and rare gems that surprise and delight.

Five unforgettable concerts. One intention: to leave you changed.

Winter Fire - **January 31 and February 1**: Melt the midwinter chill with fiery string quartets and Mendelssohn's soaring piano trio. Music to spark your spirit.

Story Time - **March 28 and March 29**: Let every note tell a tale. From Appalachian traditions to Middle Eastern laments, these works bring global stories to your ears - and your heart.

Foursomes - **May 2 and May 3**: Four voices. Infinite emotion. This season finale delivers serenity and storm alike, with music by Brahms, Roustom, and more.

Concerts take place Saturdays at 3:00 pm at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Marion and Sundays at 3:00 pm at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in South Dartmouth. Tickets: Individual concerts: $35 (advanced purchase required), Season subscription: $140 for all five concerts (save 20%. Available through October 3).

To reserve your seat and find your moment of stillness, visit nbsymphony.org or call 508-999-6276 ext. 222.

The South Coast Chamber Music Series (SCCMS) was formed to present superior chamber music for the

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

JOB POSTING
The Town Administrator seeks a qualified applicant to fill the full-time, Monday - Friday, position of Town Clerk. The Town Clerk performs administrative and supervisory work in connection with the maintenance of official municipal records, the issuing of various licenses and official documents, the management of the Town census and the direction of election activities. Salary (**$69,031.99 - 85,832.60** yearly based on 40 hrs a week/52 weeks) and a generous benefits package, including health insurance and dental are in accordance with current Town Employee Policy. This is an overtime exempt position that will require some nights and weekends during elections and Town Meetings. For complete job description please visit www.marionma.gov/Jobs.aspx Please submit a letter of interest and resume and Emplyment Application (found at www.marionma.gov) to the Town Administrator Geoffrey Gorman, Town Hall Annex, 14 Barnabas Road, Marion, MA 02738 or via email ggorman@marionma.gov
AA/EEO/ADA
Open until filled

LeBron Cleaning
Take advantage of our special discounts this month
Regular small $120; med $200; large $250
Book now: 508-840-0484
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Local master plumber and son
specialize in hi-efficiency, low maintainance heating systems, whole house filtration, new or remodel plumbing jobs, custom showers, emergency repairs.
Many satisfied local references.
Licensed and insured. MA lic.#13020
Call Michael at 508-858-8028
Mitchell at 774-400-4594
All calls promptly returned

MARION OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
Nice room at Old Landing Condominiums. Professional space. Shared BR, waiting area. Utilities included except internet. Approx. 10X12. Call Dr Crabbe (508)245-4518.

MASSTREESERVICE.COM
Pruning & removal. Aerial bucket truck service. Insured, references & free estimates
508-972-1143

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

MARK'S PAINTING
Specializing in exterior and interior painting! Landscaping, carpentry, power washing and much more! References upon request! Call for a free estimate: 508-405-5625

MASON offers Quality Work at Reasonable Prices
Chimneys, Steps, Walkways, Stonewalls, Stone Veneers, etc. New or Restoration.
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Local. Joe Fleurent 508-858-9875

MELINDA EATON
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custom home interiors
blinds, shades, drapes, shutters, cushions
508-758-9404 or email melindaeatondrapery@gmail.com
www.eatondrapery.com

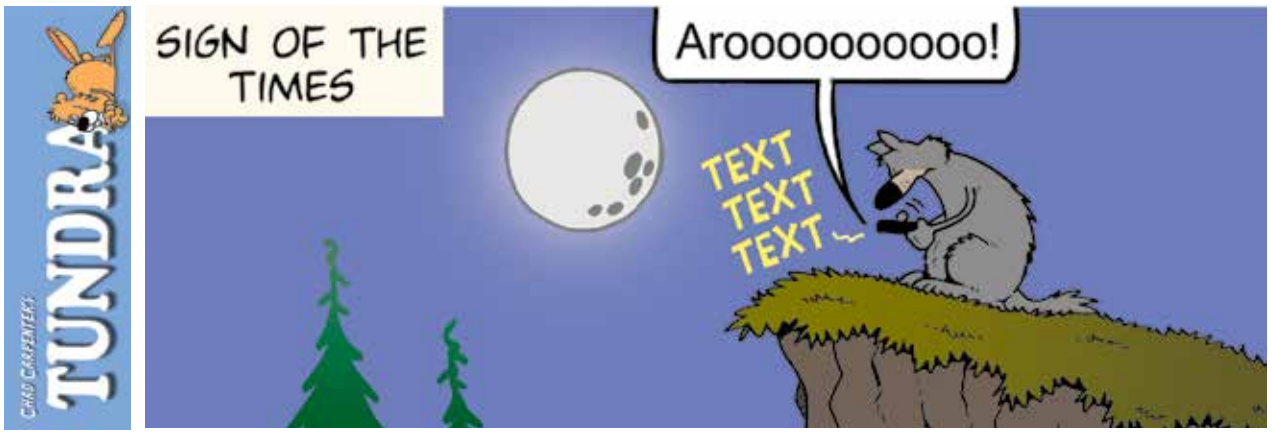
MICHELLE GORDON PIANO STUDIO
Creative - Fun - Challenging - Inspiring
Experienced, Qualified Teacher
For students of all ages
508-758-3158 mgordonpiano@gmail.com

MIKE'S APPLIANCE - Sales and Service - Experienced with all brands. Also available evenings, weekends and holidays.
Call Mike Healy at (508) 748-2557

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Don't forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!

Judy Anthony	December 18
Kenly Hiller	December 18
Palmer W. Clingman	December 18
Peter MacLean	December 18
Alex Cordeiro	December 19
Brittany M. Lestage	December 19
Hillary Collyer	December 19
Luz Jackivicz	December 19
Sara Achorn	December 19
Sylvia Longworth	December 19
Erin Burke	December 20
Kaitlin Kelley	December 20
Nancy Duff	December 20
Billy Osborne	December 21
Elvira Souza	December 21
Michael Cordeiro	December 21
Yasmin Vincent	December 21
Chaunte' L. Gibson	December 22
Elizabeth Milde	December 22
Holly Cardoza	December 22
Kristin Querim	December 22
Lily and Coal Kipling	December 22
Noelle Healy	December 22
Tessa Ripley	December 22
Victoria Wade	December 22
Aiden Day	December 23
Bob Ball	December 23
Chris Hiller	December 23
Ethan Cabral	December 23
Gladys Hartley	December 23
Judy Hagan	December 23
Palmer Clingman	December 23
Robert Ball	December 23
Robert L. Mogilnicki	December 23
Stacy Jones	December 23
Stephen Gouin	December 23
Brady G. Gracia	December 24
Carol Rego	December 24
Deborah Hartley	December 24
Emily Fauteux	December 24
Gavin O'Neil	December 24
Jenn Janicki	December 24
Nicole Martin	December 24
Paul M. Lestage	December 24
Zachary Mello	December 24



communities of Southeastern Massachusetts. SCCMS held its first subscription series concert on October 20, 2001. Since then, we have performed composers from Bach, Brahms, and Ravel to present-day masters Takemitsu and Piston. Each program presents an engaging array of styles, timbres, and artists in lively acoustic environments in Marion and South Dartmouth. We joined forces with the NBSO in 2014, giving both organizations an opportunity to expand in all directions - more concerts, more musicians, and more music - and are thrilled to connect with our loyal and growing audience.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Gosnold Division and Training Ship Patriot State of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps are welcoming new applicants to the training program at Mass. Maritime Academy. Young men and women between the ages of 11 and 17 who may be interested in nautical or military opportunities are encouraged to join.

Scheduled events include an annual Swim Meet, community service, parades, ceremonies, marksmanship training, skills competition weekend at Joint Base Cape Cod and many other activities, as well as annual summer training, nationwide.

Training is conducted on alternating Saturdays between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm at Mass. Maritime Academy. Interested applicants should contact Lt. Cdr. James McLoughlin at 508-759-8606. View us on Facebook at Gosnold Division.

Marion Vaccination Information

The Marion Board of Health would like to let residents know that they still have flu and COVID-19 vaccines available.

If you are in need of in-home vaccination appointments, these are administered through the Marion Community EMS Program.

Please contact Maureen at the Board of Health at 508-748-3530 then press #1 if you are interested in scheduling an appointment for a vaccination.

Mattapoisett Congregational Church

The Mattapoisett Congregational Church's steeple is lit nightly and is a beacon of welcome and comfort to all. The Beacon of Light was started as a way to celebrate and honor loved ones or special occasions. If you would like the steeple to be lit in remembrance of, in celebration of, or in honor of a loved one or blessed event, please call the church office at 508-758-2671 or email mattcongchurch@gmail.com for more information. We welcome and encourage multiple entries each month. This is a special way to celebrate our beautiful steeple, as a Beacon of Light in Mattapoisett, and to financially support our church. Thank you for your donation.

American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #28

All Southcoast Active Service Military, Reservists and Veterans are invited to join the monthly meetings of the American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #28.

(Serving the Tri-Town area of Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and beyond).

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1900 (7:00 pm).

Florence Eastman Post is located at 3 Depot Street, Mattapoisett. Tri-Town Veterans Office: www.mattapoisett.net/tri-town-veterans-office.

Birthday Parties at the MAC

The Marion Art Center's Arts & Crafts instructor Aylin Cetik is offering birthday parties in the MAC Studio. Parties for ages 4 and up will be scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays, with 15 to 20 minutes reserved

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

A Touch Of Magic Cleaning Services
residential/commercial
call/text Gina
(774)521-2170
Let me do your Holiday Cleaning!

ARBOR TECH SERVICES
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Certified Arborist
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Tree Care, Planting, Stump Grinding,
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10+ Years of Experience.
Call Raphael at 508-209-1777.

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blinstrubs@gmail.com

Caring PCA with lots of experience to care for you or a loved one needs. Can help with personnel care or home care, what ever is needed. Please call. Tammy 508-951-3091

Christina Sampson LMT - Massage Studio
at the Kilburn Mill in New Bedford
508-273-6622 (call/text) christinasampson.com
60 minutes: Therapeutic $80 / Deep Tissue $90
$20 off first time clients & earn referral credits!

Cleaning By Solange
Reliable, trustworthy professional with references and fully insured. Our services include: daily, weekly, monthly, or one time cleaning. Please call (774) 360-1975 our visit our website https://www.solangedkleaner.com

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New Construction - Remodels - Additions - Decks
Siding - Windows - Doors - Kitchens
Email: Nathan@Demerscc.com
View our work at DemersCC.com or **Facebook.com/DemersCC**
Give us a call for a free estimate! **774.849.2325**

Thank you all for entrusting us with your homes! It has been a pleasure serving the community for the past 8 years and we look forward to the years to come!
From our family to yours; **Happy Holidays!**
Best Wishes, **Nathan Demers & Family**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

COASTAL BOOKKEEPING SOLUTIONS
Providing bookkeeping solutions for your business, saving you time and money! Call Today!
508-789-5669/lisa@coastalbksolutions.com

Depot Road Painting
Interior or Exterior -36 yrs experience
references avaliable call (508) 563-6563

Done with the tree? We've got it!
Quick hassle-free Christmas tree removal.
No needles, no mess, no stress!
Local, insured, and affordable!
Book your pickup today!
Call Arbor Tech Services!
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DUMP RUNS and MORE Any cleanup, yards, houses, attics, apts, etc. Oil tank and boiler removal call Cliff 508-472-8539

Electrician Eric Cordeiro for good work & reasonable prices, 24hr service, big & small jobs, will call back same day. 508-995-4496

FOR SALE
2012 Toyota Camry LE
Good condition $5500 - 508-965-1846

FREE Flexsteel 7' couch and matching club chair with ottoman in seafoam green. Available for pickup any day. Call Bill at 508-748-0255.

Guida's Cleaning
Portuguese Style, Home, Office & Boat Interiors
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Interior Painting
Average size room, 2 coats on walls, $300
Excellent Tri-town references!
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KW Powerwash Free Estimates
Book now!
508-997-2892

Licensed Electrician For all your electrical needs,including Emergency Calls,also offering Generator maintenance,repair and installation call Paul Sarmento 508-979-8347 landline

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Janeiro Architecture
Call/Text 508-493-0322
John@janeiroarchitecture.com
www.janeiroarchitecture.com

The *Wanderer*

The Wanderer *is an independently owned and published weekly newspaper that is distributed to the public free of charge throughout Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and the surrounding communities.*

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55 County Road (Route 6) Mattapoisett

Telephone: 508-758-9055

Web Page: www.wanderer.com
E-mail:
General/Advertising:
office@wanderer.com
News: news@wanderer.com

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(News) Monday at noon
(All Others) Tuesday at 10am
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Mon., Thur. & Fri. 9am-3pm
Tues. 9am - 12 noon

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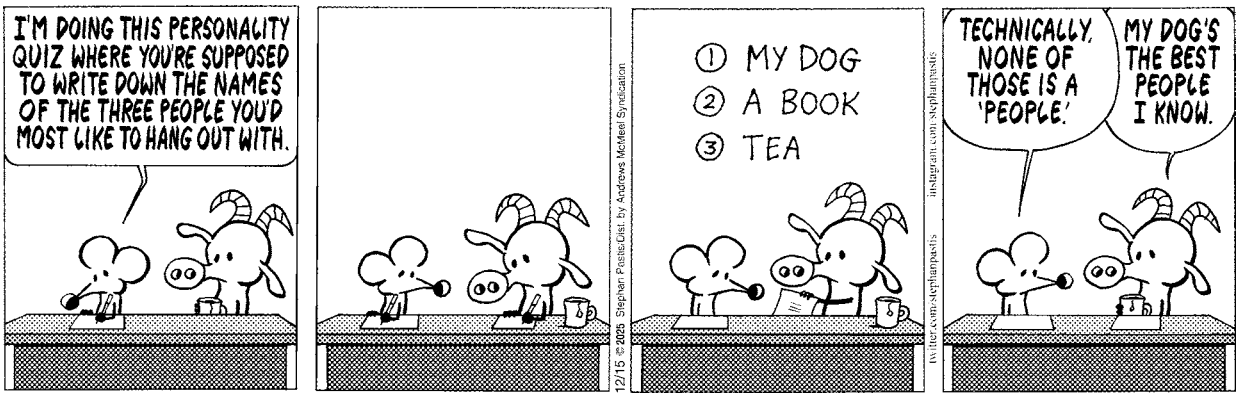
ISSN 1559-1212

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis


I'M DOING THIS PERSONALITY QUIZ WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WRITE DOWN THE NAMES OF THE THREE PEOPLE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH.
1 MY DOG
2 A BOOK
3 TEA
TECHNICALLY, NONE OF THOSE IS A 'PEOPLE.'
MY DOG'S THE BEST PEOPLE I KNOW.
12/15 © 2025 Stephan Pastis/Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
twitter.com/stephanpastis instagram.com/stephanpastis

at the end of the party for a sweet treat. Available times are 10:00 am to 11:30 am or 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Suggested party themes include: mermaids, fairies, outer space, pirates, art and science, or custom. The cost is $275 for up to ten guests and $15 for each additional child with a maximum of 15 children. Add-on options include outdoor lawn games or other activities by request, for an additional fee. For more information and to inquire about dates, email aylincetik@gmail.com.

Marion Natural History Museum

Attention Pre-Schoolers and Home Schoolers, the Marion Natural History Museum is now open to the public on Friday mornings. The museum features collections of minerals, fossils, butterflies, birds of prey, and many other specimens. Appointments may be made for field trips. If you would like to schedule a time to come in and view these specimens as part of a lesson or just for fun, please contact the director for an appointment. We are open on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Fridays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Emergency Preparedness

This is the perfect time to think about and prepare for emergencies and disasters as Massachusetts faces a variety of hazards - weather-related or otherwise throughout the year.

If you feel that you would require assistance in an emergency, we would like to have a discussion with you so we can prepare a plan that will be ready to go when needed. If you rely on medical equipment at your residence that requires electricity. If you would require transportation to a shelter when such a need arises or live in a known flood zone. If you have a communication-related disability, we need to know the best way to communicate in an emergency state. If you take medications, we need a list.

If there is any other targeted assistance that you may need.

Please call the Council on Aging at 508-748-3570 so we can compile this information which will be reported to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We want to be prepared.

We encourage residents and family members who may reside out of town to sign up for E-alerts from the Town of Marion (visit: marionma.gov/subscribe).

Tri-Town Against Racism

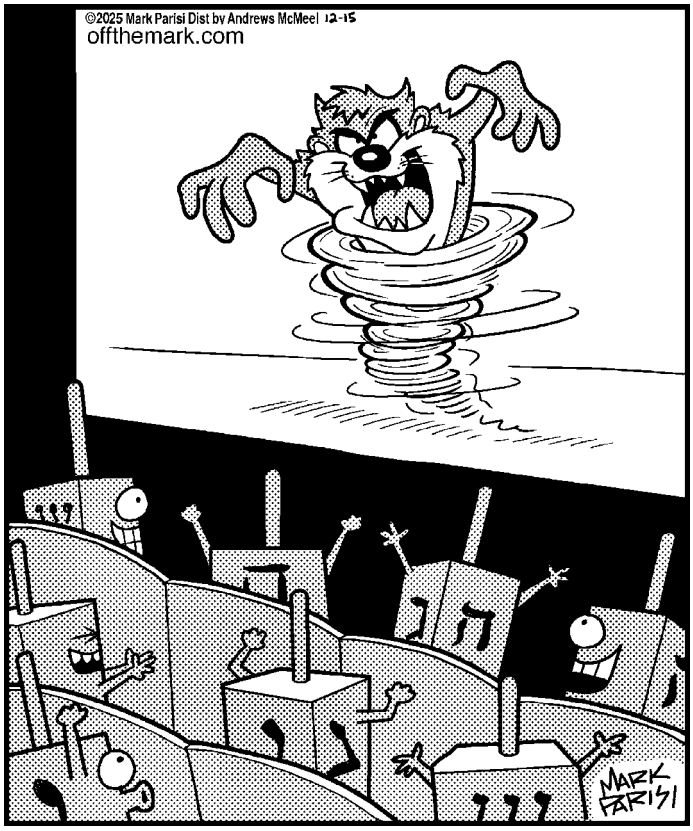
Tri-Town against Racism (TTAR) announces they have developed a system to document discriminatory incidents experienced by community members in the Tri-Town. Collecting this information will help to identify how to best support the Tri-Town Region. The incident report can be completed online, either on a computer or mobile device, anonymously if preferred. Community members can also choose to identify themselves to TTAR in the report. Their personal identifying information will never be shared outside of TTAR. The incident report allows for individuals or families to share their stories to inform local change. Completing the form and sharing your experiences with TTAR will help to make a positive impact. The incident report can be found by visiting this link: forms.gle/UGEsEmjBCZTEYKX56.

Real Estate Transactions

See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com

Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
Yim, Sophorn Louny	Sullivan, Christopher J Sobieraj, Elizabeth Z Est	982 Point Rd	Marion	11/26/2025	525,000.00
Gamache, James P Gamach, Emily J	Bellafatto, John A Bellafatto, Mark F Feather, Angela M Bellafatto	127 Marion Rd	Rochester	11/26/2025	500,000.00
Breen, Kirsten	Rodriguez, Hector B Jr Rodriguez, Michelle R	369 Front St	Marion	12/01/2025	375,000.00

off the mark by Mark Parisi



Local Tides

Day	Date	High a.m.	High p.m.	Low a.m.	Low p.m.
Thursday	December 11	12:45	1:08	6:26	7:46
Friday	December 12	1:41	2:01	8:18	8:33
Saturday	December 13	2:37	2:57	9:27	9:08
Sunday	December 14	3:34	3:54	10:14	9:41
Monday	December 15	4:29	4:49	10:51	10:17
Tuesday	December 16	5:18	5:37	11:26	10:55
Wednesday	December 17	6:01	6:19		12:02
Thursday	December 18	6:40	6:57	12:05	12:41
Friday	December 19	7:16	7:35	12:16	1:22
Saturday	December 20	7:52	8:12	12:58	2:03
Sunday	December 21	8:28	8:50	1:40	2:42
Monday	December 22	9:05	9:30	2:21	3:16
Tuesday	December 23	9:45	10:13	3:01	3:48
Wednesday	December 24	10:28	10:59	3:40	4:21
Thursday	December 25	11:16	11:49	4:22	4:57
Friday	December 26		12:06	5:12	5:41
Saturday	December 27	12:40	12:59	6:14	6:34
Sunday	December 28	1:33	1:56	7:35	7:35

Phases of the Moon		
	New Moon	December 19th
	First Quarter	December 27th
	Full Moon	January 3rd
	Last Quarter	January 10th

I Found the Aardvark!

Each week, hidden somewhere in the pages of *The Wanderer* is a tiny drawing of an aardvark. The little guy you are looking for looks exactly like the one pictured above (but don't put down this page as your answer, there's another one hidden somewhere in this issue).

Once you find the aardvark you can submit your answer on line and if you are right you will get Aardvark Points! You can then use these points to get cool Aardvark Prizes!

To enter visit: www.wanderer.com and Click on ***I Found the Aardvark***

In the December 11, 2025 edition the Aardvark was on page 5

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

N	A	P	S	■	R	E	P	■	P	S	A	■	S	A	M	S	P	A	D	E
O	B	O	E	■	A	X	E	■	O	W	N	■	A	L	I	T	A	L	I	A
W	A	L	T	E	R	P	I	S	T	O	N	■	T	A	M	A	R	I	N	S
I	C	Y	■	P	E	A	■	C	A	L	O	R	I	C	I	N	T	A	K	E
S	U	P	P	O	R	T	H	O	S	E	■	O	R	K	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	S	S	E	N	■	■	E	T	H	■	O	U	I	■	P	H	O	E	B	E
■	■	■	D	Y	L	A	N	■	■	W	A	X	C	Y	L	I	N	D	E	R
A	Y	N	■	M	I	S	■	B	E	A	K	■	■	O	U	S	T	I	N	G
B	E	E	P	■	D	E	B	U	G	S	■	M	Y	S	T	■	O	T	T	O
B	A	S	E	B	O	A	R	D	R	A	D	I	A	T	O	R	■	■	■	■
A	S	T	R	O	■	■	A	D	E	■	A	F	L	■	■	I	O	T	A	S
■	■	■	■	W	E	I	G	H	T	L	I	F	T	I	N	G	B	E	L	T
A	S	T	A	■	I	S	S	A	■	O	L	E	A	R	Y	■	I	N	D	Y
S	H	A	R	P	E	N	■	■	B	O	Y	D	■	A	R	G	■	T	A	X
S	E	C	U	R	I	T	Y	C	A	M	■	■	A	S	O	R	T	■	■	■
T	A	T	T	O	O	■	S	H	Y	■	H	S	N	■	■	E	L	O	P	E
■	■	■	■	■	■	A	H	A	■	J	E	T	I	N	J	E	C	T	O	R
L	A	P	T	O	P	B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	■	I	O	N	■	O	R	O
O	N	I	O	N	D	I	P	■	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	H	O	O	D
L	A	U	R	E	A	T	E	■	N	N	E	■	U	R	N	■	S	L	U	E
A	S	S	E	S	S	E	D	■	E	A	R	■	N	O	S	■	T	E	S	S

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Deity; 2. Pleat;
3. Awoke; 4. Imply

Today's Word

PAYDAY

Sudoku Answer

6	8	4	3	2	1	7	9	5
7	1	3	5	4	9	2	8	6
5	9	2	8	6	7	3	1	4
8	7	1	9	5	6	4	2	3
9	3	6	4	1	2	5	7	8
4	2	5	7	8	3	1	6	9
1	4	9	2	3	8	6	5	7
3	6	7	1	9	5	8	4	2
2	5	8	6	7	4	9	3	1

off the mark by Mark Parisi
I HOPE THE NEIGHBORS LIKE THE ADVENT CALENDAR
THE DUNG BEETLES
offthemark.com
©2025 Mark Parisi Dist by Andrews McMeel
MARK PARISI

Friends' marketplace
at PLUMB CORNER

SALE EFFECTIVE:
Friday, December 19 to Thursday, December 25, 2025

565 Rounseville Road • Rochester, MA 02770 508.763.5333

Open Daily: 7am–8pm

GROCERY, DAIRY & FROZEN

46 oz.
Dole Pineapple **$4.29**

64 oz. Selected Variety
Ocean Spray Cranberry Juicy **$3.99**

25.4 oz.
Martinelli's Sparkling Cider **$4.59** +Dep.

Half Liter Bottles, 8 pk. Selected Variety
Poland Spring Sparkling Water **$3.99** +Dep.

Half Liter Bottles, 24 pk.
Poland Spring Water **$5.99**

Gallon, Selected Variety
AriZona Beverages **$3.99**

12-14 oz. Rice Crispies or
General Mills Chex Mix **$3.99**

32 oz. Selected Variety
Pearl Milling Company Pancake or Waffle Mix **$4.19**

6 oz. Selected Variety
Stove Top Stuffing Mix **2/$5**

14.75-15.25 oz. Selected Variety
Green Giant Canned Corn **4/$5**

15 oz.
One Pie Canned Pumpkin **2/$5**

20 oz. Selected Variety
Dole Pineapple **2/$5**

14 oz. Selected Variety
Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce **2/$6**

10.5 oz. Cream of Mushroom or
Campbell's Cream of Chicken **2/$3**

12 oz. Selected Variety
Heinz Home Style Gravy **2/$5**

16 oz. Original
Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing **$4.99**

15-36 oz. Selected Variety
Hellmann's Mayonnaise **$6.99**

7-13.7 oz. Selected Variety Ritz or Triscuits
Nabisco Crackers **2/$6**

8-14.1 oz. Pie Crust or Selected Variety
Pillsbury Rolls **2/$7**

6.5 oz. Selected Variety
Reddi Wip Whipped Cream **$2.99**

16 oz. Selected Variety
Land O Lakes Butter **$4.99**

16 oz. Selected Variety
Daisy Sour Cream Dips **$2.99**

12 oz. Selected Variety
Heluva Good! Dip **2/$5**

8 oz. Selected Variety
Philadelphia Cream Cheese **2/$6**

8 oz. Selected Variety
Cool Whip Whipped Topping **2/$4**

WINE

Juve & Camps - 750 ml. Spain
Brut Nature Cava **$19.99** Reg. - $22.99

Mumm - 750 ml. California
Sparkling Wines **$19.99** Reg. - $22.99

BAKERY

24 oz. Pkg. 8 Inch
Fresh Baked Apple Pie **$6.99**

9 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety
BisouSweet Confections Donut Muffins **$7.99**

MEAT, DELI, PREPARED FOODS & CHEESE

Fresh
Boar's Head Sweet Slice Ham
$9.99 lb

Deli Sliced
Boar's Head Genoa Salami
$11.99 lb

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Packaged Asian Noodle Salad
$6.99 lb

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Packaged Tuna Salad
$12.99 lb

4 lb. Avg. Boneless
Triple M Ham **$6.99 lb**

5 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety
BelGioioso Cheese Cups **$3.99**

8 oz. Pkg. Smoked
Boar's Head Gouda Cheese **$5.99**

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!

Our Holiday Hours:

Christmas Eve • 7am-5pm
Christmas Day • Closed
New Years Eve • 7am-6pm
New Years Day • 10am-6pm

Visit our website!
www.friendsplumbcorner.com

Friends' marketplace

at PLUMB CORNER

Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah From All Of Us At Friends' Marketplace!

565 Rounseville Rd.
Rochester, MA 02770
Phone: 508.763.5333

Open Daily: 7am–8pm

We reserve the right to limit quantities & correct typographical errors. Illustrations are for design purposes only. Items are while supplies last and no rain checks. Due to current market conditions, item retails may change, and products may become unavailable unexpectedly.

SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, December 19 to Thursday, December 25, 2025

BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!

Fresh, Boneless
Allen's Chicken Breast
$5.99 lb

10 ct. K-Cups or 12 oz. Bag, Hot Cocoa or Selected Variety
Dunkin' Coffee
$7.99

8-8.5 oz. Selected Variety
Nabisco Wheat Thins Crackers
2/$6

Deli Sliced
Friends' Store Made Roast Beef
$16.49 lb

6-8 oz. Selected Variety Bars or
Cabot Shredded Cheese
2/$6

48 oz. Selected Variety
Hood Ice Cream
$3.99

QUALITY PRODUCE

3 lb. Pkg.
Peelz Clementines **$5.99**

Imported
Fresh Cherries **$4.79 lb**

Seedless
Welch's Grapes **$2.99 lb**

3 lb. Pkg.
McIntosh Apples **2/$5**

3 lb. Pkg.
Cortland Apples **2/$5**

Fresh
Broccoli Crowns **$1.99 lb**

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!